AN

ANALYSIS

Wm. Biddle
July. 1821.

OF THE

System

OF

THE BIBLE SOCIETY,

THROUGHOUT

ITS VARIOUS PARTS,

INCLUDING

A SKETCH OF THE ORIGIN AND RESULTS

OF

AUXILIARY AND BRANCH SOCIETIES

AND

Bible Associations:

WITH HINTS FOR THEIR BETTER REGULATION.

INTERSPERSED WITH PRACTICAL OBSERVATIONS, AND A CONSIDERATION OF SOME POPULAR OBJECTIONS.

BY C. S. DUDLEY.

"Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world."
PSALM XIX. 4.

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TO

HER

WHO HAS LABOURED WITH UNWEARIED DILIGENCE,

FOR HALF A CENTURY,

IN EXTENDING

A KNOWLEDGE OF THE SACRED TRUTHS

OF

THE BIBLE;

AND WHO HAS CONFIRMED THE FORCE OF PRECEPT BY

THE INFLUENCE OF EXAMPLE;

THIS VOLUME

IS INSCRIBED,

BY HER AFFECTIONATE SON.

LONDON, *May*, 1821.

PREFACE.

WERE it possible to realize the idea, that only a single copy of the BIBLE was upon earth, and that all mankind knew where it was deposited, with what delight would myriads hasten to the favoured spot! what pilgrimages would be undertaken, to catch even a glimpse of the inestimable treasure! Kings would lay down their crowns before it; and Sages press, from the shades of retirement and the schools of science, to partake of wisdom at the fountain which Mercy had unlocked.

And is the value of this treasure impaired, because means are devised to render it accessible to all? Is the light of Revelation the less valuable, because it no longer emits "a struggling ray" through the jealous door-ways and narrow windows of the temple, but bursts forth in all the brightness of its majesty, to console, and cheer, and animate the universal family of man?

The application of the system detailed in the following pages has been the subject of surprise to some, and of ridicule to others:—but it is by the nature and importance of the object in view, and the adaptation of the means provided for its attainment, that the candid and judicious will decide. It is no longer a question, whether the Bible Society be entitled to general support:—its claims are felt and acknowledged by the public: and the only matter of astonishment is, how, in a country professedly Christian, a doubt could have arisen in reference to the subject. If the religion we profess, be THE TRUTH; if the BIBLE be the basis on which it rests; if "life and immortality" are indeed "brought

to light through the Gospel;" no duty can be more clear and imperative than that of disseminating the holy scriptures, wherever a human eye can peruse their glorious truths, or a human heart be changed and sanctified by that Holy Spirit whence they proceeded, and to which they lead.

Nor is it possible to conceive a work, wherein the time, the talents, and the energies of mankind can be more profitably engaged. Shall *he* be commended, who applies the resources of ingenuity to the accumulation of temporal wealth? and shall censure or ridicule be the portion of him, who facilitates the attainment of the imperishable treasures of an eternal world?

In tracing the progress of the system, and its practical operation and results among the various classes of society, it has been the aim of the author to establish and illustrate a position, of the truth of which he is himself convinced;—that the several component parts are essentially necessary; that no portion can be spared without injury to the whole; and that, throughout all the departments of this extraordinary Institution, however designated, no one of its branches interferes with another. United in principle and harmonious in practice, the several Societies occupy their respective stations; and the health and vigour of all are indicated by the welfare and success of each particular part. Whether this system have yet attained the degree of perfection of which it is susceptible, is a question whereon the reader will form his own opinion: but the author may be allowed to observe, that among the motives by which he was influenced to this publication, not the least powerful has been a hope that an opportunity will thus be afforded, to those who are interested in the object, for any suggestions and remarks which may tend to its improvement. That any hints in furtherance of this end will be gratefully accepted by the Committee of the Parent Institution, and, on their recommendation, by the numerous Local Societies, there cannot be

a doubt: but the author begs it may be distinctly understood, that the present work is submitted without any authority, except that which it derives from its own merits. If he has quoted the sentiments of those who are qualified by experience and observation to form a correct judgment on the subject, he has done so merely to verify the accuracy of his own opinions,—not to get rid of that responsibility which attaches exclusively to himself.

To a respected and valued friend, the eloquent Historian of the Society, an apology is due, for the freedom with which his language has been occasionally borrowed. While acknowledging this obligation, the author may be permitted to express a sanguine, though perhaps presumptuous expectation, that the extracts by which he has enriched his own pages, may be the means of exciting more general attention to a work which cannot be too highly commended.

How far the system detailed and explained in the present work is applicable to *Foreign* Countries, it is not for the author to hazard an opinion:—his wishes will be amply gratified, if his labours tend, in any degree, to promote its extension in our own. But he indulges a hope, that, with such modifications as the circumstances and habits of other nations may render necessary, it may conduce to the establishment and organization of Bible Societies *generally*; and thus extend those practical benefits which are attendant on the steady pursuit of an object altogether good.

In a work of this nature, a considerable degree of repetition is unavoidable; but reference to preceding facts and documents has been made wherever the practice could be adopted without ambiguity.

In returning his acknowledgments to many estimable friends, for the zeal which they have manifested in promoting sub-

scriptions to the present volume, the author begs them to accept his assurance, that the sense of gratitude is heightened, rather than impaired, by the reflection that he has no pecuniary interest in the success of their generous exertions.

It only remains to apologise to the subscribers for the long and unexpected delay of the publication. Nearly two years have elapsed since the prospectus was circulated, during the greater part of which period the author has been afflicted with severe indisposition:—to the same cause the candid reader will ascribe some portion of the imperfection with which the work has been performed. But however painful that delay, and however obvious this imperfection, there is one consideration which he humbly trusts will always connect itself with the subject, in his own mind:—never did the BIBLE assume so high a value, as when perused in the silent solitude of a sick chamber;—never did he feel less inclined to repent his connexion with the BIBLE SOCIETY, than when he had reason to believe it was about to terminate for ever!

Since the last sheets of this work were sent to press, Mr. BENJAMIN BARKER, of Aleppo, has been appointed one of the Society's Agents in the Levant. The vacancy caused by the lamented decease of the Rev. CHARLES WILLIAMSON (*see page* 29) is thus filled, with every prospect of considerable advantage to the Institution, and extensive benefit to that interesting portion of the globe.

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CHAP. I.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY.

"IT WAS PLANTED IN A GOOD SOIL, BY GREAT WATERS, THAT IT MIGHT BRING FORTH BRANCHES, AND THAT IT MIGHT BEAR FRUIT, AND THAT IT MIGHT BE A GOODLY VINE." *EZEK.* XVII. 8.

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS.

IN contemplating the rise and progress of the British and Foreign Bible Society, and the unparalleled success with which it has been attended, it is scarcely possible to avoid the conclusion, that it must have possessed some extraordinary facilities in its practical operations, and a more than common adaptation of the means to the end. Established and conducted by a few private individuals, and asserting no claim but that of the importance and the singleness of its object, it exhibits the most incontestable evidence, that, in this happy and highly-favoured country, it is only necessary to convince the public that a cause is good, in order to ensure general co-operation and support.

Seventeen years have scarcely elapsed since the formation of this Society, and already we find it surrounded by nearly Six Hundred and Fifty Auxiliary and Branch Societies, and considerably more than One Thousand Bible Associations, within the United Kingdom. On the continent of Europe, and in the other quarters of the globe, it has called into existence and activity more than Six Hundred kindred Institutions. In the pursuit of its great, yet simple design, it has expended Nine Hundred Thousand Pounds; and has promoted the translation, printing, or distribution of the Scriptures, or portions of them, in ONE HUNDRED and THIRTY different languages and dialects, in more than EIGHTY of which no part of the Sacred Volume had been previously printed; and finally, it has already put into circulation, either directly or indirectly, more than FOUR MILLIONS of Bibles and Testaments.

When we consider these facts, and reflect, that the operations of the Society are continually and progressively

extending abroad, and consolidating at home;—when we behold the peace and harmony that reign throughout the various parts of the system;—and when we mark that inviolable adherence to fixed principles, which has characterized the proceedings of the Institution, it is impossible to resist the conviction, that THE FINGER OF GOD IS HERE! Human wisdom, however profound,—and human agency, however diligent,—unaided by the Holy Spirit that indited these Sacred Oracles, could never have accomplished such wonders. Human agency has, indeed, been employed; but the results must be ascribed to HIM, that hath said, "*I will work, and who shall let it?*"

It is foreign to the nature of a work of this description to trace the origin and progress of the Bible Society. This duty has been performed by one who is fully competent to the task; and in a manner which excites an ardent hope, that he may be long preserved to record the triumphs of an Institution, to whose success, humanly speaking, he has so essentially contributed. That accurate historian has satisfactorily established two facts, which should never be forgotten by the friends and advocates of the cause;—that such a Society was rendered *necessary* by the wants of our own population; and, that those to whom its executive details have from time to time been entrusted, have adhered, with scrupulous fidelity, to the fundamental principle of the establishment. Nor is it necessary to describe the progressive steps by which the *constitution* of the Society was trained, "from its elementary existence, in a crude suggestion and in unpromising obscurity, to the ripeness of its plan, in a well-digested system and an organized establishment." The volumes to which reference is here made, sufficiently elucidate this part of the subject, and will amply repay the time occupied in their perusal.

SECTION I.

CONSTITUTION OF THE SOCIETY.

LAWS *and* REGULATIONS *of the* BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY, *established in London on the 7th of March*, 1804.

I. The designation of this Society shall be, "The BRITISH and FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY;" of which the sole object shall be, to encourage a wider circulation of the Holy Scriptures, without note or comment. The only copies, in the languages of the United Kingdom to be circulated by the Society, shall be the authorised version.

Laws and Regulations.

II. This Society shall add its endeavours to those employed by other Societies, for circulating the Scriptures through the British Dominions; and shall also, according to its ability, extend its influence to other Countries, whether Christian, Mahometan, or Pagan.

III. Each Subscriber of One Guinea annually, shall be a Member.

IV. Each Subscriber of Ten Guineas at one time, shall be a Member for life.

V. Each Subscriber of Five Guineas annually, shall be a Governor.

VI. Each Subscriber of Fifty Pounds at one time, or who shall, by one additional payment, increase his original Subscription to Fifty Pounds, shall be a Governor for life.

VII. Governors shall be entitled to attend and vote at all Meetings of the Committee.

VIII. An Executor paying a bequest of Fifty Pounds, shall be a Member for life; or of One Hundred Pounds, a Governor for life.

IX. A Committee shall be appointed to conduct the business of the Society, consisting of Thirty-six Laymen; Six of whom shall be Foreigners, resident in London or its vicinity: half the remainder shall be Members of the Church of England; and the other half, Members of other Denominations of Christians. Twenty-seven of the above number, who shall have most frequently attended, shall be eligible for re-election for the ensuing year. The Committee shall appoint all Officers, except the Treasurer; and call Special General Meetings; and shall be charged with procuring for the Society suitable patronage, both British and Foreign.

X. Each Member of the Society shall be entitled, under the direction of the Committee, to purchase Bibles and Testaments at the Society's prices, which shall be as low as possible.

XI. The Annual Meeting of the Society shall be held on the First Wednesday in May; when the Treasurer and Committee shall be chosen, the Accounts presented, and the proceedings of the foregoing year reported.

XII. The President, Vice-Presidents, and Treasurer, shall be considered, *ex officio*, Members of the Committee.

XIII. Every Clergyman or Dissenting Minister, who is a Member of the Society, shall be entitled to attend and vote at all Meetings of the Committee.

XIV. The Secretaries, for the time being, shall be considered as Members of the Committee: but no person deriving any emolument from the Society shall have that privilege.

XV. At the General Meetings, and Meetings of the Committee, the President, or, in his absence, the Vice-President first upon the list then present; and in the absence of all the Vice-Presidents, the Treasurer; and in his absence, such Member as shall be voted for that purpose,—shall preside at the Meeting.

XVI. The Committee shall meet on the First Monday in every month, or oftener if necessary.

XVII. The Committee shall have the power of nominating such persons as have rendered essential services to the Society, either MEMBERS FOR LIFE, or GOVERNORS FOR LIFE.

XVIII. The Committee shall also have the power of nominating HONORARY MEMBERS from among Foreigners who have promoted the object of the Society.

XIX. The whole of the minutes of every general meeting shall be signed by the Chairman.

Observations.

1. A more close examination of these Rules, in reference to their practical tendency, will confirm the justice of an observation which has been frequently made,—that the plan is not more remarkable for its simplicity, than for its adaptation to the greatest possible extent of operation.

The British and Foreign Bible Society has been termed, with peculiar propriety, "The PARENT Institution:" and although the places wherein establishments *precisely* similar can be formed, are comparatively few, and the design of the present work is more especially connected with the AUXILIARY System, yet this examination may afford some useful suggestions to National Bible Societies, while it satisfies the friends of the cause at home, that the machinery is prepared and applied with the greatest possible attention to economy and efficiency, and that it "secures an adherence to the integrity of its principles, by regulations so precise and defined, as not to admit of dubious interpretation."

2. The *object* proposed by the Society, as stated in the First Rule, is equally grand and simple: it is, to give to every man, throughout the world, "the Oracles of GOD" in his native language, "his own tongue wherein he was born." It has been well observed, that the Institution is thus "founded on a principle so intelligible and so unexceptionable, that persons of any description, who profess to regard the Holy Scriptures as the proper standard of Faith, may cordially and conscientiously unite in it, and, in the spirit of true Christian charity, harmoniously blend their common endeavours to promote the glory of GOD."

If the circulation of any uninspired production, however excellent, were included in this object, a difference of opinion must necessarily exist, and doubts and difficulties impede the progress of the Society; but in restricting it to the dissemination of the Sacred Volume *alone*, and embracing the world as its sphere of action, it asserts no common claim on the support of all who believe the Bible to be a revelation from GOD. This remark is equally applicable to the last member of the Rule, which limits the circulation within the United Kingdom to the authorised version.—That the Society has preserved this principle inviolate, is a fact which the following instances, among many, sufficiently testify.

A Translation of the Gospel of St. John into the Mohawk Dialect having been approved by the Committee, an impression of 2000 copies was printed and furnished to different

Stations in Upper Canada and in the Ohio and Oneida Country.

"A circumstance arose in the course of this transaction, which afforded the Conductors of the Society an opportunity of bringing their principles to the trial. The Translator, desirous to conciliate the attention of the Mohawks, and prepare their minds for appreciating the treasure with which the British and Foreign Bible Society had supplied them, drew up a short introductory address in Mohawk and English, and, without consultation, prefixed it to the work. In this state, six copies were bound, and presented, as specimens of binding, to a Sub-Committee, whose office it was to superintend this department of the Society's service. Immediately upon the discovery, a resolution was passed, that the portion which contained the introductory address should be removed from the copies already bound; and that it should in no case be united with the Text, in such copies as should hereafter be issued under the sanction and responsibility of the Society. As the record of this determination evinced the promptitude and firmness with which the first approach to deviation from the fundamental laws of the Society was resisted, it may be satisfactory to the reader to see the terms in which it was expressed.

"An Address to the Six Nations having been written by the Translator, and printed uniformly with the Gospel, your Sub-Committee have ordered the same to be wholly separated from the Translation of the Gospel, and not in any instance to be bound up with it; it being incompatible with a fundamental principle of this Institution, to attach to the Scriptures any additional matter whatever."

"In justice to the Translator it should be stated, that the Address contained no other sentiments than those which every Christian might be expected to approve; and there was throughout it an interesting simplicity, characteristic of the kindest disposition and the purest principles *."

In the year 1809, in consequence of an application from the Moravian Brethren, it was resolved to print an edition of the Gospel of St. John in the Esquimaux Language, at the Society's expense; and that of St. Luke, when the Translation should be completed, for the use of the converted Esquimaux on the coast of Labrador:—

"A difficulty occurred in the course of this undertaking, which gave the Committee of the British and Foreign Bible Society another opportunity of testifying their vigilant and zealous regard for the simple object of their Institution. By a practice in general use among the Brethren's Congregations, a Translation had been made of a Harmony of the Scriptures into the language of the Esquimaux; and the petition of their Secretary was, that this Harmony might be printed, for their benefit, at the Society's expense. To this proposition the Committee objected; considering any mode of printing the Scriptures, but that which exhibited them as they stood in the Canon, to be a deviation from the letter and the spirit of their Institution. In this view of the subject the Brethren acquiesced; and accordingly engaged to conform their Translation to the standard as generally received. A similar exception had been previously taken against the form of a Harmony, in the Calmuc Version, when proposed by the Missionaries at Sarepta; and it was

* Owen's History of the British and Foreign Bible Society, Vol. I. p. 131 & seq.

attended with a similar result. These facts are mentioned, in order to shew with what scrupulous exactness the Conductors of the Society maintained the observance of their fundamental regulations; and how carefully they abstained from any measures, however speciously recommended, which might be likely to betray them into deflection and error*."

3. In reference to the Second Rule, it cannot be too often repeated, that the British and Foreign Bible Society is neither the enemy nor the rival of any other Institution. It co-operates with all those kindred establishments which the piety and the benevolence of our country have erected; and by the magnitude of its operations, confined strictly to one object, leaves a greater proportion of their funds at liberty, for the other excellent views which they embrace.

The Annual Reports of the Society satisfactorily prove, that the pledge contained in this Rule has been already redeemed, both at home and abroad. Of the copies distributed, nearly *Two Millions and a half* have been in the languages of the United Kingdom: and with regard to the "extension of its influence to other countries," it is to be confidently hoped that the day is not far distant, when it may be said of the Holy Scriptures, "*There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard: their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.*"

4. The six succeeding Regulations, from No. III. to No. VIII. inclusive, necessarily result from the broad and catholic principle on which the Society is founded. It accepts the contributions of *all*, in order to supply *all* with the Holy Scriptures. And it is evident, that any arrangement which should exclude the subscription of any class or denomination, would virtually impugn that principle.

During the first five years of the Society's existence, a donation of *twenty* guineas constituted a Life-member; but the Fourth Rule, as it now stands, was adopted by the General Meeting in 1809.

5. Among the secondary causes to which the success of the Institution may be ascribed, few are more prominent than the constitution of the Committee. As this subject involves no inconsiderable portion of the internal organization, it will be considered under a distinct head. For a similar reason, the practical operation of the Tenth Rule will come under that division which treats of the "Mode of supplying Auxiliary Societies and Subscribers."

6. The advantages of an Annual Meeting, on a fixed and

* Owen's Hist. of the British and Foreign Bible Society, Vol. I. p. 460 & seq.

specified day, are evident; and the experience of fifteen years sufficiently attests the propriety of the time selected, for this important purpose, by the British and Foreign Bible Society. Since the year 1811, these meetings have been held in the Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, Lincoln's-Inn Fields; a place equally central and commodious, though not sufficiently large to accommodate all who are desirous to attend: for this reason, Ladies are not admitted on these occasions. For several years, the practice of making collections at the doors has been discontinued; a deviation from general custom which is justified by the fact, that the great majority of those who attend are liberal contributors to the funds of the Institution, either directly or through the medium of Auxiliary Societies and Associations. The inconvenience arising from the desire to attend the Annual Meetings is now in a great degree obviated, by judicious regulations: the Officers of Auxiliary Societies, and the Presidents of Associations, are admitted, by means of tickets, to seats reserved for them; while the centre of the hall is appropriated to the public. The Officers of the Society, and those gentlemen who are invited to take part in the proceedings of the day, are furnished with platform-tickets; with which foreigners and strangers of distinction are also supplied, on application at the Society's House. A Sub-Committee, appointed for this special purpose, gives facility to the arrangements; and the gentlemen who compose it are recognised by carrying white wands. Every measure is thus adopted to maintain the good order of the Meeting, and promote the comfort and convenience of the audience.

7. As all the remaining rules relate exclusively to the Committee, their practical application will be considered in the next Section. The Rules XVII. and XVIII. did not enter into the original constitution of the Society, but were unanimously adopted at the third and fourth Annual Meetings. The exercise of the authority thus vested in the Committee, has given a sanction to the labours of many valuable individuals both at home and abroad, while it has materially extended their field of usefulness.

SECTION II.

ON THE COMMITTEE.

1. The constitution of the Committee is alike remarkable for "the felicity of thought with which it was conceived, and

the practical advantages with which it has been followed *." This executive body is composed of thirty-six Laymen, six of whom are Foreigners, resident in or near the Metropolis: of the remaining thirty, one half are members of the Established Church, and the other half members of other Christian Denominations. The nine vacancies provided for by Rule IX. are annually filled by ballot, with a strict adherence to this fundamental regulation.

The President, Vice-Presidents, Treasurer, and Secretaries, are *ex-officio* members of the Committee; and the Governors, with all Clergymen and other Ministers who are members of the Society, are entitled to attend and vote at all Meetings of the Committee.

In reference to this part of the subject, the following extract from a periodical publication, now discontinued, appears worthy of preservation.

"In the constitution of this Committee, the liberal principles of the Society are practically exemplified. Six of the members are *foreigners;* and the remaining thirty are, half of them members of the Church of England, and the other half members of other Denominations of Christians. The consideration due to the Religious Establishment of the Country is thus decidedly manifested; and is still further marked by the regulation, that the President, Vice-Presidents, and Treasurer, all of whom are members of the Church of England, are, *ex officio*, members of the Committee. The influence of the Secretaries, as *ex-officio* members, is equal; one being a Foreigner, another a Clergyman, and the third a Dissenting Minister. The Fourth regulation—that every Clergyman, or other Minister, who is a member of the Society, is entitled to attend and vote at all the meetings of the Committee—gives, in its *principle*, a decided preponderance to the Ecclesiastical Establishment; inasmuch, as the number of Clergymen who could become members exceeds that of Ministers of other Denominations;—a preponderance, however, which we do not recollect to have ever been objected to; which we believe to have been generally witnessed in the Parent Committee; and which we are persuaded would give general satisfaction, if it existed in all the Committees of Auxiliary and Branch Societies and Associations: a satisfaction, arising not only from the patronage which would thus be given to the Society, but from a desire that all the proceedings of the Committees might be under the superintendence of the representatives of that Church, the interests of which, we should conceive, are identified with the object of the Bible Society.",

2. At a very early period after the establishment of the Society, it became evident that the order and efficiency of its proceedings required the appointment of Sub-Committees, to whose especial attention various departments and branches of the business might be formally confided. This division of labour became increasingly necessary with the extending magnitude of the Institution; and to no part of the system is

* See Owen's History, Vol. I. p. 56 et seq. for an interesting detail of the considerations which, at the suggestion of the Rev. Josiah Pratt, led to this happy improvement of the original plan.

it more indebted for the facility and correctness of its details. The following is a list of the Sub-Committees into which the General Committee is divided, and of the objects which they respectively embrace; viz.

I. For Printing and General Purposes.
II. For conducting the business of the Society's Funds.
III. For preparing Papers for Publication.
IV. For superintending the Depository, examining its Accounts, and purchasing Printing Paper.—To this Sub-Committee is assigned the duty of keeping up an adequate Stock of Bibles and Testaments.
V. For superintending the Library.
VI. For promoting and assisting Auxiliary Societies.
VII. For auditing the Accounts.—(This Sub-Committee consists of Four Members of the Committee and Four other Subscribers.)
VIII. For selecting and arranging the Appendix to the Annual Report.
IX. For superintending the Arrangements of the Annual Meeting.

These several Sub-Committees meet, by adjournment or specially, according to the nature and urgency of the business confided to their care, and respectively submit their resolutions and minutes to the General Committee, by which they are confirmed or corrected. That which is specified as No. VI. in the preceding list, and which is usually designated the Local Sub-Committee, meets weekly, and exercises a salutary superintendence over the Auxiliary System.

3. The regular meetings of the Committee are held on the first Monday in every month; but the concerns of the Society have recently become so multiplied and extensive, that an adjournment to the third Monday generally takes place; nor is this extra-meeting always sufficient to prevent arrears of business. The Chair is taken at twelve o'clock *precisely*, by the President, or one of the other members, as provided by the Fifteenth regulation. After the minutes of the preceding meeting have been read and disposed of, those of the respective Sub-Committees are read, and, if approved, adopted by a regular resolution to that effect. An "Agenda," or Paper of Business, of which a specimen is subjoined, is previously prepared by the Assistant Secretary, and laid before the Chairman, who is thus enabled to direct the attention of the Committee to the subjects which require more immediate notice. These are so numerous, and so diversified in their nature, that a perusal of the Reports of the Society can alone furnish an accurate outline of the business transacted in the Committee Room. It is sufficient here to observe, that the regular proceedings include a monthly statement of the cash

account, under its several heads; a report of remittances from the Auxiliary Societies; portions of the voluminous correspondence, both foreign and domestic; the consideration of grants, whether of Money, or Bibles and Testaments; reports from the Printers of the progress made, since the last meeting, in printing Bibles and Testaments; and, when requisite, the state of the Depository. No grant of money exceeding 500*l.* is valid, unless confirmed by the next meeting; and a specification of such grant is inserted in the circular notice of the time of meeting, sent to every member of the Committee. A Book, provided for the purpose, is laid on the table, in which every member who attends inserts his name; and the regularity of his attendance is thus ascertained, in reference to the Ninth rule. The average attendance during the last year was about thirty;—a fact which is equally indicative of the beneficial tendency of this regulation, and of the interest felt by those gentlemen who devote so much of their valuable time to the Institution.

4. Visitors are admitted to the Committee Room (where seats are reserved for their accommodation) on the introduction of any member, after having inserted their names in a book placed in the hall for this purpose.

SPECIMEN OF AGENDA.

Committee, September 4th, 1820.

1.	To read and confirm the Minutes of last Meeting.
2.	To read and confirm the Minutes of Sub-Committee of Finance.
3.	To read and confirm the Minutes of Printing Sub-Committee.
4.	To read and confirm the Minutes of the Local Sub-Committee.
5.	To read the Cash Account.
6.	To read Correspondence requiring Grants.
7.	To refer Bills to Sub-Committee of Finance, for examination and payment.
8.	To report Contributions and Legacies.
9.	To read *A. B.*'s Letter relative to Chinese Bible.
10.	To read *C. D.*'s Letter relative to Turkish Bible.
11.	To read *E. F.*'s Letter, relative to Indian Translations.
12.	To read the Letters of Foreign Agents.
13.	To read Letters of Auxiliary Societies, and other Home Correspondence.
14.	To receive Secretaries' Reports of Auxiliary Societies visited.
15.	To report Books presented to the Library by *G. H.* and *I. K.*

SECTION III.

THE SOCIETY'S HOUSE.

1. This subject cannot be more properly introduced, than by the following extract from the Society's Annual Report for 1816:—

"It now becomes the duty of your Committee to state, that they have recently accomplished an object, which has long been considered as highly desirable, and had at length become absolutely indispensable;—the union of all the Offices of the Society in one Establishment. The inconvenience arising from having the Library and Depository in one place, the Accountant's Office in another, and the Committee Room in a third, had been severely and injuriously felt, both by the Officers and Members of the Society: add to this, that the Officers of the Society had no place of common resort, and were destitute of the accommodations required for the correct and systematic transaction of their business, which has for a considerable time past been progressively increasing, both in complicacy and importance; and the risk and trouble occasioned by the frequent removal of the Records of the Society, now accumulated to an immense mass. In the mean time, the expenses of the Depository, from the commission upon sales of Bibles and Testaments, which, though voluntarily reduced by Mr. Seeley (the Society's Agent) to the lowest rate that justice to his family would allow, had, upon such extensive issues, necessarily arisen to a great annual amount, and formed an additional reason for looking to an Establishment, as a measure of economy, no less than of accommodation.

"The offer of suitable premises in Earl Street, Blackfriars, on advantageous terms, afforded the Committee an opportunity of carrying their purpose into effect. When the arrangements, which are now proceeding, shall have been completed, the Society will be in possession of a set of commodious Offices for carrying on the business in every department, centrally situated, and combining every proposed convenience, at an immediate expense, which, by the annual saving in the Depository, Commission, and other expenses, will be gradually and finally replaced.

"Among the accommodations afforded by the Institution in Earl Street, not the least important is that which regards the Society's Biblical Library. The books of which it consists, numerous and valuable as they are, would, there is reason to believe, have been considerably augmented by the liberality of the public, if it had been correctly known what the Society really possessed, and in what respects, therefore, its collection was deficient. In the new establishment, a commodious room is allotted for the reception of the books, where they will be suitably classed and arranged."

2. The Establishment in Earl Street comprises,

I. A large and very substantial Warehouse, attached to the Society's House, wherein the Stock of Bibles and Testaments is deposited, in the most convenient and methodical manner.

II. The Depositary's Office, including that of the Collector.

III. The Office of the Assistant Secretary and Accountant.

iv. The Committee Room.

v. The Library, which is also used as a Sub-Committee Room.

vi. Office of the Assistant Foreign Secretary.

vii. Rooms for the accommodation of the Secretaries, when detained on official business.

viii. The apartments of the Depositary, who resides on, and takes charge of the Premises.

3. In their Fourteenth Report, the Committee observe, —

"The Society's Premises are now in complete occupation, and are found to answer, most effectually, the purposes for which they were provided. To those who have had the means of observing how prodigiously the business of the Society had accumulated, and to how great inconvenience and embarrassment the transaction of it was subjected, it must have been obvious that such an Establishment, as that which the Society now possesses, had become indispensably necessary. The Members of the Society will hear, with pleasure, that the change from the former to the present system, so far from entailing an additional expense, has occasioned an annual saving; amounting, in the first year, to about £.300; while it has given concentration, regularity, and despatch, to the business of the Society; promoted the convenience of its Patrons, Committee, and Officers; and secured to the Institution that respectability which is due to the magnitude of its concerns, and the extent of its relations, in our own and in foreign countries."

Of the increased facilities afforded by this important and economical establishment to all the operations of the Society, and especially in reference to its domestic concerns, every Secretary of an Auxiliary Society will be a competent judge, if he compare the promptitude and despatch with which all orders and communications are now recognised, with the unavoidable delay which attended the former system.

SECTION IV.

THE SOCIETY'S LIBRARY.

1. The foundation of this important appendage to the British and Foreign Bible Society was laid at a very early period:—

"It had appeared, for some time, to many friends of the Institution, in a high degree desirable and expedient that copies should be procured (as far as practicable) of all the existing versions of the Holy Scriptures; in order that the Society might not be at a loss for a standard edition, and the means of collation, whenever an occasion might arise for printing an impression on its own account. The first step which was taken in pursuit of this end, is to be traced in a resolution passed on the 3d of December 1804; by which it was determined, that of every edition or translation of the Holy Scriptures, or of parts thereof, printed under the auspices of the

Auxiliary Societies recommended to send their Reports to the Library.

Society, six or more copies should be transmitted, to be lodged in its Depository. But as it was foreseen that the operation of this measure would be unavoidably slow, limited, and remote, it was further determined, on the ensuing 17th, that an appeal should be made to the community at large, through the medium of certain daily Newspapers and Periodical Publications of character, soliciting donations of Bibles, Testaments, or portions of the Scriptures, in the ancient or modern languages. The first fruits of this determination were, a munificent present from Granville Sharpe, Esq. of thirty-nine copies of the Holy Scriptures, or certain portions of them, in various languages, together with the Irish and Italian versions of the English Liturgy. Thus the first Chairman of the Society became also the first contributor to its Library*."

2. This valuable Collection of Books and Manuscripts has, through the liberality of many individuals, become very considerable, and now consists of about two thousand volumes. The kindness of those to whom the Society is thus indebted, is annually acknowledged in the Appendix to the Report, with a specification of the books presented. By the continuance of the same generosity, the Institution will, in time, possess a compilation of the Scriptures in various languages, as well as of other Biblical works, which will prove of the greatest utility, not only to the Society in publishing different versions of the Scriptures, but to such of the Subscribers as may have occasion to consult them.

3. But there is another source from which the Library has derived no inconsiderable accession, and by which, it is hoped, it will be progressively enriched. It should be the duty of the Committee of every Auxiliary and Branch Society, who have not already done so, to transmit a few sets of their Annual Reports to Earl Street, and to forward ten or twelve copies of every succeeding Report as soon as published. Reference can thus be had, in case of necessity, to those official records which exhibit the actual state of Local Societies at different periods; and the Parent Committee be enabled to form a more correct estimate of its resources, as well as the propriety of any suggested means for reviving or encouraging those Institutions.

Anxious to do every thing in their power to render this Collection complete, the Committee express their sanguine hope "that the friends of the Society will not relax in their zeal, to add such versions of the Scriptures, and other Biblical works, as may render the Library worthy of the Institution to whose use it is appropriated."

4. Several National Bible Societies on the Continent of Europe, with that of the United States of America, have

* Owen's History, Vol. I. p. 135 & seq.

followed in this, as in other respects, the example of their British prototype. The language of one of the earliest and most efficient of these Institutions, in its Report for 1819, is peculiarly appropriate, and may well be adopted by all:—

"The Swedish Bible Society's Library has been increased from year to year, by means of donations, in a manner that not only bears the most cheering evidence of the regard and affection which Foreign Societies have for our Institution, but which also exhibits a remarkably grand portrait of the revelation of God's holy Word among all the nations of the world. There is no gazing at this magnificent display of Bibles without feeling astonishment and adoration. They are printed each in their different character and language, but resembling the various strings of a fine-toned instrument: all their voices harmonize in bearing the same record of God the Father, and of the Lord Jesus Christ, whom he has sent: or they may be compared to messengers bearing the same good news of salvation throughout the earth, for the gathering together its dispersed kindred, under *one Lord and one King*. The ancient prophecy is now evidently more and more fulfilling every day; '*I am found of them that sought me not:*' and the Lord is speaking to the Heathen nations; and saying, '*Lo, I come.*'"

SECTION V.

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY.

1. In proceeding to define the duties which appertain to these gentlemen respectively, the just and eloquent remark of the Society's historian forces itself on the recollection of one who has long and frequently witnessed, with admiration, that patience which he longed to emulate, and those exertions in which he could but feebly co-operate:—"There never was an Institution which has exacted from its Committees" and Officers "a larger tribute of time and attention and personal labour, or in which the exacted tribute has been more cheerfully and even zealously paid." And it may with equal propriety be added, that there never was a Society whose concerns were entrusted to men more competent to their management, or in which the important duties of their office were discharged with greater prudence and discretion.

2. The Officers of the Institution whose services are gratuitously rendered, are,

1. *The President.*

He is always Chairman of the General Meetings; and also presides at those of the Committee, when able to attend.

Among the many valuable services rendered to the Society by Lord Teignmouth, it is indebted to him for the greater number of its Annual Reports; which furnish an admirable and lucid compendium of its proceedings, while they

afford a happy illustration of that Christian charity, and liberality of sentiment, so consonant with the principle and object of the Institution*.

II. *The Vice-Presidents.*

No particular duty is annexed to this office, except that of presiding, in the absence of the President, at the Meetings of the Committee; which are occasionally attended by several of the Prelates, Noblemen, and other Gentlemen comprised in the list, containing, at present, twenty-six names. Of these, no one is more regular in his attendance, or more regardful of the duties that devolve on him, as Chairman, than the Chancellor of the Exchequer, whose short but powerful defence of the fundamental principles of the Society will be found in the Appendix. It is indeed a gratifying and consoling circumstance, in times like the present, that we behold Prelates of the Established Church, Ministers of the Crown, and other individuals of high rank and extensive influence, rallying round an Institution so peculiarly calculated to promote and maintain the best and dearest interests of our country. If it be true—as it assuredly is—that "*Righteousness exalteth a nation*," the dissemination of the Holy Scriptures at home, and the practical exemplification of their spirit and their letter, by sending them to distant lands, afford a well-grounded hope, that Great Britain may be long preserved at peace within herself, and a blessing to the whole earth.

III. *The Treasurer.*

This officer presides at the meetings of the Committee, in the absence of the President and Vice-Presidents. All bills, on account of grants to Foreign Societies, &c. are drawn on him, by authority of the Committee, officially communicated. The power of giving orders on the Treasurer is vested solely in the Sub-Committee of Finance; two, at least, of whom must sign every order. As the management and controul of the funds are confided to this Sub-Committee, they direct the temporary investment of any occasional surplus, in the public securities, for the benefit of the Institution; reserving such balance, in the hands of the Treasurer, as may appear necessary for current expenses and immediate claims.

* The Reports of the first Twelve Years were drawn up principally by the President: since that period, from the declining state of his Lordship's health, this office has devolved upon Mr. Owen, by whom it continues to be performed.

The Treasurer's accounts, with those of the Sub-Committee of Finance, and all bills and vouchers, are annually submitted to the Auditors; and an abstract, signed by them, is included in the Report.

To this officer the remittances by Auxiliary Societies should be made, with a distinct specification of the accounts to which they are to be entered; and he should immediately furnish the Accountant with a statement of the same, for insertion in the books of the Society.

IV. *The Secretaries.*

Were it consistent with the nature of a work of this description, the author would gladly avail himself of the opportunity now afforded, to express his sense of the invaluable services of those gentlemen who appear to have been raised up and qualified for this especial purpose. Nothing but a devoted zeal for the cause in which they are engaged could have supported them, during seventeen years, in the discharge of duties equally arduous and important, and attended with the sacrifice of no inconsiderable portion of time, health, and domestic comfort. Adopting the grateful language of the Committee for 1813, it may be truly said, that "the gratuitous services, unremitted zeal, and indefatigable exertions of those three Secretaries of the Institution, far indeed exceed any acknowledgments which it is in the power of the Committee to make; and the magnitude of them can be measured only by the extent of the benefits which they have produced."

The duties which devolve on the Secretaries include,

1. The Correspondence of the Society, both Foreign and Domestic.
2. Attendance at the Annual Meetings of Auxiliary and other Societies; in which they are occasionally assisted by some of the Honorary Life-Governors and other members of the Institution, both Lay and Clerical.
3. Attendance at the regular Committee Meetings.

To these may be added, their highly important services on Sub-Committees (of all which they are officially Members); the preparing and editing of the Monthly Extracts, Annual Reports, &c.; and that general superintendence of the Society, in all its relations, which the nature of their office implies.

To the Clerical and Foreign Secretaries the Institution is further indebted for their valuable services during extensive continental tours. The importance of those visits, and the

beneficial effects resulting from them, will be appreciated by all who have read with attention the annual reports of the Society: and it is only necessary to add, in no one respect have they been more profitably directed, than in maturing the system of the Continental Bible Institutions, and improving the organization of their Committees.

If any consideration can add to the grateful affection with which the services of these invaluable men are contemplated, it is that of tracing in the Dissenting Secretary, *the Founder of the Society;* in his Clerical colleague, its eloquent *Advocate and Historian;* and in their Foreign co-adjutor, the *Dispenser of British benevolence* to his countrymen, and the organ of their gratitude and their love.

3. The Stipendiary Officers of the Institution are,

1. *The Assistant Secretary and Accountant.*

To this officer, all correspondence relative to the funds; advice concerning remittances by Auxiliary Societies; and applications for visiting these Institutions, should be addressed. In his department the financial accounts of the Institution are concentrated. He examines all bills referred by the General Committee to the Sub-Committee of Finance, previous to their being audited and paid by the latter. He presents monthly to the Committee, a statement of the assets in the hands of the Treasurer, and of the outstanding engagements of the Society; and keeps the general accounts of the Institution, which he exhibits, with their proper vouchers, once every quarter to the Auditors, for whose signature he prepares a general abstract of the receipts and expenditure of the Society, up to that period of the current year.

It is likewise his duty to acknowledge all remittances, and conduct the domestic correspondence of the Society connected with his department;—to give notices of meeting to the members of the Committee, and of the several Sub-Committees, and prepare the necessary documents to lay before them;—to attend their sittings, and take the minutes of their proceedings; and subsequently to enter the same, together with abstracts of the several letters received, in the Fair-Minute Books, of which he keeps regular Indexes;—and to communicate such orders and instructions as are from time to time given by the Committee. He assists the Secretaries in revising for the press the proofs of the Society's publications. He keeps an Alphabetical Register, into which every subscription and donation to the Society is posted from the Collector's Book, in order to enable the

Auditors to see that the subscriptions are duly collected. From this register he prepares, twice in the year, a list of all subscriptions that appear to be more than six months overdue; and corrects the register, when such list has been returned by the Collector, and submitted to the Auditors.

This officer gives security to the Committee for the trust reposed in him.

In this department two Clerks are engaged.

The mode of keeping the accounts with Auxiliary Societies will be considered in the next Section.

II. *Assistant Foreign Secretary.*

The extent and importance of the Foreign operations had long required this recent addition to the establishment. The correspondence with Continental and other Foreign Societies, and the translation of letters, official documents, &c. constituted a heavy and increasing mass of duty, which it became impossible for the Secretaries to discharge with justice to themselves and the Society.

This officer and one Clerk find full occupation in this extensive and extending department.

III. *The Depositary.*

To this officer, the correspondence concerning supplies of Bibles and Testaments is to be addressed. He examines the *paper* on which the Society's books are printed, as well as the *printing* and *binding* of the various versions; reports to the Committee when new editions are wanted; superintends the imports and exports, as well as the execution of the other orders in his department; keeps a particular account of all copies received and delivered, and furnishes Bills of Parcels to Societies and individuals. Specimens of the various translations and editions are kept in the Depository, and may be seen by Subscribers, on application, during the hours of business.

From this office, the Annual Reports, Monthly Extracts of Correspondence, and all other papers printed by the Society, are forwarded to Auxiliaries and kindred Institutions in Foreign countries throughout the world.

The Depositary is responsible to the Committee for the stock under his charge, and gives security for his trust. He has the assistance of a Clerk, a Warehouseman, and three or more Porters, according to the press of business, in order to transact the requisite duties with system and despatch. It may be mentioned here, that, by a recent regulation, no packages are sent out until they are first weighed, and the weight

marked upon them; thereby preventing overcharges and other mistakes by the carriers.

IV. *Collector.*

To this officer, all correspondence concerning individual subscriptions to the British and Foreign Bible Society should be addressed. He enters the particulars of every subscription and donation received, in a book, which is added up whenever he makes a payment to the Treasurer; and being then handed to the Accountant, it shews the items of which each payment is constituted; and the Treasurer is debited, and the individual subscribers credited accordingly. The Collector gives security for the trust reposed in him, and is remunerated for his trouble by a commission of five per cent. on the amount of annual subscriptions paid to the society.

By a recent arrangement, the Collector submits, monthly, to the General Committee, a list of Subscribers deceased, or who may have withdrawn or declined, together with references to his authority for such statement. This list, being handed from member to member, an opportunity is afforded for considering whether it be probable that, through their influence, they may prevail upon some who have withdrawn to renew their subscriptions.

Attendance is given daily at the Society's House, from nine in the morning, until seven in the Evening.

SECTION VI.

MODE OF SUPPLYING SUBSCRIBERS AND AUXILIARY SOCIETIES, AND OF KEEPING THE ACCOUNTS.

1. Pursuant to the Tenth rule of the Society, the Committee have adopted the following regulations in reference to the supply of INDIVIDUAL SUBSCRIBERS:—

"At the *reduced* prices, as specified in the Society's Catalogue*, each Annual Subscriber of One Guinea has the privilege of purchasing Bibles and Testaments, within the year, to the amount of Five Guineas; and in like proportion for every additional Guinea subscribed. A Benefactor of Ten Guineas may purchase to the same amount as an Annual Subscriber of One Guinea; and a Benefactor of Fifty Pounds, as an Annual Subscriber of Five Guineas.

"A further quantity may also be had (upon application to the Committee) at the *cost* prices.

"As some persons have misunderstood the intention of the Society in issuing Bibles and Testaments at *reduced* prices, it may be necessary to mention, that such supplies are exclusively intended for subscribers who purchase according to their privilege.

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* See Appendix, No. II.

Respecting supplies of Bibles and Testaments.

"It is requested that all orders may be sent *post-paid*, and accompanied with a bill for the amount, or an order on some friend in London, including the packing-case, if such be required."

During the first ten years of the Society's existence, the great scarcity of Bibles in many parts of our country, and the absence of any other means by which the wants could, in any considerable degree, be relieved, furnished a sufficient reason why subscribers should avail themselves of the privilege thus extended by the Institution. But as this necessity has, in a great measure, ceased, in consequence of the formation of Bible Associations,—whereby the local deficiency can be more accurately ascertained, and more efficiently supplied,—Subscribers will perceive the wisdom of exercising this privilege with caution, and to a very moderate and partial extent.

2. As the establishment of Auxiliary Societies did not enter into the contemplation of the founders of this remarkable Institution, the laws, as originally framed, do not contain any provision for supplying them with Bibles and Testaments. But a code of regulations, for this purpose, has been subsequently prepared, and constitutes an important feature of the system now under consideration. This code, with such remarks as exhibit its practical tendency, is detailed in the following official publication:—

"REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE, RESPECTING SUPPLIES OF BIBLES AND TESTAMENTS TO AUXILIARY SOCIETIES.

"The Committee of the *British and Foreign Bible Society*, finding it requisite to establish some general principles for supplying AUXILIARY SOCIETIES with Bibles and Testaments, and being desirous of holding out to such Societies the greatest possible encouragement to ascertain the want of the Holy Scriptures in their respective districts, and to supply it according to their discretion, have adopted the following

"REGULATIONS.

"1. That the Committees of Auxiliary Societies shall be entitled to receive Bibles and Testaments, estimated at *prime cost*, to the amount of half the entire sum remitted by them to the Parent Institution, if their local necessities shall require such a supply.

"2. That the Members of Auxiliary Societies, whose subscriptions amount to One Guinea or upwards annually, or to Ten Guineas or upwards at one time, may purchase Bibles and Testaments, *from the Depository of the Auxiliary Society*, agreeably to the Rules of the Parent Institution.

"3. That, in order to facilitate such supplies for the Members of Auxiliary Societies, an adequate quantity of Bibles and Testaments shall be forwarded, as required, to their respective Depositories, charged at the reduced prices; the same to be *paid for* by each Society, half-yearly, in the months of January and July*.

* The Author would respectfully suggest, in reference to this regulation, that a more simple and economical arrangement may be adopted, which will be submitted in the third division of this Section.

Observations on the supply of Auxiliary Societies and Subscribers.

"4. That the Committees of Auxiliary Societies shall have the further privilege of purchasing to any amount, at prime-cost.

"5. That they cause to be transmitted to the British and Foreign Bible Society, when *required*, a List of their Subscribers and Benefactors, alphabetically arranged, distinguishing the Annual Subscribers of One Guinea and upwards, and the Benefactors of Ten Guineas and upwards.

"OBSERVATIONS.

"It will appear, from the above Regulations, that Annual Subscribers of One Guinea and upwards, and Benefactors of Ten Guineas and upwards, throughout the empire, are placed on the same footing, as to their privilege of purchasing Bibles and Testaments at the reduced prices, whether they contribute directly to the Parent Institution, or to any of the Auxiliary Societies.

"Auxiliary Societies will now find it to their advantage so to modify their constitution, as to transmit the whole of their funds, after deducting their incidental expenses, to the Parent Society; as, in that case, they will be entitled, by the above Regulations, to receive Bibles and Testaments, estimated at prime cost, to the amount of one-half of the sum so transmitted; and will, moreover, be enabled to supply their Annual Subscribers of One Guinea and upwards, and Benefactors of Ten Guineas and upwards, at reduced prices, from their own Depository, according to the full rate of privilege enjoyed by such as contribute directly to the Parent Society.

"In thus returning to Auxiliary Societies one-half of the whole sum received from them (if required) in Bibles and Testaments, estimated at prime cost, and yet allowing the individual Members of such Societies to exercise their privilege of purchasing at reduced prices, the Parent Institution will be exposed to the possibility of great loss—a loss which would equal, in the case of some Auxiliary Societies, (were the privilege of purchasing at reduced prices carried to its full extent by their Members,) the entire contribution derived from such Societies; and in other cases, would greatly exceed it.

"It is clear, therefore, that the Parent Institution entrusts much of the interests of her general and foreign objects to the prudence and liberality of the Auxiliary Societies;—to their *prudence*, in availing themselves of the advantages which she offers to them, no further than their local necessities really require;—and to their *liberality*, in assisting the general and foreign objects of the Parent Society, with whatever sums can be spared from the supply of these local necessities.

"But the Committee of the British and Foreign Bible Society have no fear in thus entrusting the general and foreign objects of the Institution to the prudence and liberality of the Auxiliary Societies. One common feeling animates the whole body, and the Committee anxiously wish to cherish and perpetuate this feeling. They will leave it, therefore, to the Auxiliary Societies to determine to what extent they shall avail themselves of the above Regulations, in the supply of their local wants. In consideration however, of the liberality of these Regulations, they not only recommen with confidence that economy in gratuitous distributions, which will restrain itself to the supply of real wants, but they request such Auxiliary Societies as may retain any portion of their funds, to transmit, at the close of every year, their *unapplied balance* to the Parent Institution, in furtherance of the *general, and, more especially, the Foreign objects of the Society.*

JOHN OWEN,
JOSEPH HUGHES,
C. F. A. STEINKOPFF,
} Secretaries."

Mode of keeping the Accounts with Auxiliary Societies.

3. The Accounts with Auxiliary Societies are kept under the distinct heads of—

"MOIETY Account"—for Bibles and Testaments, in return for contributions, to the extent of a moiety, if required for local distribution; and

"PURCHASE Account"—for Bibles and Testaments, at cost and reduced prices:

and the letters advising remittances, to the Accountant and Depositary, should distinctly specify the particular object, for which the whole, or any definite proportion of the sum, is remitted. Thus, if the local necessities of Auxiliary Societies, or their connected Associations, require that the *whole* amount of any particular sum shall be returned in Bibles and Testaments at the cost prices, the remittance is made "*on purchase account;*" but if, as is generally the case, the return of one-half be sufficient to supply those wants, the remittance is made "*on moiety account.*"

With regard to the supply of Subscribers, it would save considerable trouble to all parties, if the Secretaries of Auxiliary Societies were to furnish a statement, annually, of the number and description of Bibles and Testaments sold to their subscribers at reduced prices, and their loss on such sales: the amount of this loss would then be placed to the credit of such society, under the head of *purchase* or *moiety account*, at their option.

The following observation, dictated by a sound judgment, is strongly recommended to the attention of those few local societies which continue the injudicious practice referred to:—

"It is much to be regretted, that any of the Auxiliary Societies should retain the practice of allowing a proportion of Bibles and Testaments to the individual subscriber. A reference of the distribution to the Committee exclusively, would, in all cases, afford the best security for having the local wants supplied, on terms proportioned to the circumstances of the population *."

When an Auxiliary Society finds itself enabled to remit a sum for the general and Foreign objects, it should be distinctly stated that "*no return is required*" for such remittance, which would then be expressly acknowledged in the annual reports of the Institution. The circulation of more than *Two Millions* of Bibles and Testaments within the United Kingdom, and the increasing magnitude of the Foreign operations, justify the expression of an earnest hope, that the contributions for this object will become annually more prominent.

* Owen's History, Vol. II. p. 537, note.

Branch Societies entitled to the same advantages as Auxiliaries.

The Secretaries of Auxiliary Societies should be particular in specifying the descriptions of Bibles and Testaments required, according to their respective designations in the Society's Catalogue.

BRANCH Societies are entitled to the same privileges in every respect as Auxiliaries; but it is very desirable, in order to prevent trouble and inaccuracy, that their orders and remittances should be transmitted through the medium, or in the name, of those Auxiliary Societies with which they are respectively connected.

4. It should be remembered, that the Society's cost prices, in consideration of the extent of its orders, are below the usual cost to Booksellers, of books bound in like manner; and, consequently, materially lower than the prices at which Booksellers can afford to sell them.

The following Notice, appended to the Sixteenth Report, deserves the particular attention of those to whom it is addressed.

"TO AUXILIARY SOCIETIES AND BIBLE ASSOCIATIONS.

"The Committee of the British and Foreign Bible Society, finding that their Third regulation for supplying Auxiliary Societies with Bibles and Testaments on a short credit, to enable them to supply their *Members*, has been misunderstood as extending also to supplies for Bible Associations, whose funds are chiefly limited to the purchase of Bibles and Testaments; they beg leave to state, that it is necessary for orders intended for Associations to be accompanied with payment; it being understood that the moneys are usually collected from Associations previous to purchasing the books: and, from the vast increase of them, the demand has become so progressively extensive, that, were the Parent Institution to allow a credit to be given by their Depositary, they would be under the necessity of taking credit from the Universities; whereby they would lose the benefit of the discount allowed for prompt payment, and, of course, *the cost prices of the Bibles and Testaments would be proportionally advanced.*

"Of the copies sold by Auxiliary Societies to the poor at reduced prices, the loss must necessarily be sustained out of the Bibles and Testaments returned for a moiety of their contributions, or otherwise furnished to such Societies at prime cost; as any other measures would be ruinous to the funds of the Parent Institution."

The Rules recommended by the Parent Institution for adoption by Auxiliary Societies, Branch Societies, Associations conducted by gentlemen, Marine Associations, and Ladies' Associations, with such alterations as experience and observation have suggested, will be found in the respective Chapters which treat of these societies.

Agents:—Rev. Dr. Paterson—Rev. Dr. Henderson.

SECTION VII.

AGENTS.

1. In contemplating the progress of the Bible Society, especially in reference to its foreign relations, the great importance of that part of the system on which we are now about to enter, will be seen and appreciated. The chain of providential circumstances that led to the first engagements of Agents, and the astonishing results of their exertions, justify the introduction of the following extracts from a work, to which the reader is referred for more copious details on this highly interesting subject:—

"In the year 1805, the Rev. John Paterson, and the Rev. Ebenezer Henderson, both natives of Scotland, and animated with a zeal for the propagation of the Gospel, resigned their country, connections, and worldly prospects, in order to serve as Christian Missionaries in India. Precluded by the regulations of the British East-India Company from occupying stations within their territorial dominions, they repaired to Copenhagen, in the hope of obtaining a passage to Tranquebar, and exercising their ministry within the settlement attached to the Danish Crown on the coast of Coromandel. Having been disappointed in their expectation, they felt themselves compelled to abandon the design—a design nearest their heart, of proclaiming the glad tidings of salvation to the heathen; and began to consider, in what manner they might turn their Missionary zeal to profitable account in that part of Christendom upon which the Providence of God appeared to have cast them.

"Under this impression, they commenced a very diligent inquiry into the state of religion in the countries by which they were more immediately surrounded. Among the individuals of consideration with whom they had formed a connection during their residence at Copenhagen, was Justiciary Thorkelin, Privy-Keeper of the Royal Archives, a person very generally respected, and distinguished for his zealous attachment to the cause of Christianity. This gentleman, being a native of Iceland, and feeling, as a Christian patriot, for the spiritual welfare of his country, laid open to these disappointed Missionaries a field of immediate usefulness, by directing their attention to the religious state of the inhabitants of that island, and to the dearth of the Holy Scriptures at that time prevailing among them. Mr. Thorkelin stated, that the population, amounting to nearly 50,000, scarcely contained one person in a hundred, above the age of twelve or fourteen, who could not read; that no people in the world were fonder of reading; and that as the only press of which they were possessed had not been used for many years, the inhabitants supplied the want of printed books by the laborious and tardy expedient of transcribing them: that the Scriptures were no longer to be obtained for money; and that not above forty or fifty copies of the Bible were to be found throughout the island. These affecting particulars excited in the breasts of these excellent young men the kindest emotions. Touched with compassion for nearly 50,000 of their fellow-Christians, inhabiting a remote island, and destitute of those sacred oracles which they so dearly prized and revered, Messrs. Paterson and Henderson despatched the information, with which themselves had been so deeply impressed, to their friends in Scotland; and made an earnest

Dr. Pinkerton—turns his attention to the want of Bibles in Russia.

appeal on behalf of this interesting and destitute people. Through this circuitous channel the intelligence was conveyed, by a respectable correspondent in Edinburgh, to the Committee of the British and Foreign Bible Society, and thus the question of administering aid to the necessitous Icelanders was brought regularly and seriously before them.

"Such were the circumstances to which we are to ascribe the introduction of the Rev. Messrs. Paterson and Henderson to the notice and the employment of the British and Foreign Bible Society; and the origin of those exertions, which, promoted by the wisdom and activity of these diligent labourers, and fostered by the paternal care of a benign and gracious Providence, have terminated in measures so dignified and comprehensive, on the part of the Northern Powers of Europe, for circulating the Holy Scriptures among the inhabitants of their respective dominions *."

2. Another invaluable Agent of the Society is thus introduced:—

"The Rev. Robert Pinkerton, like his co-adjutors in the North of Europe, Messrs. Paterson and Henderson, is a native of Scotland, and emigrated from his country in May 1805, under the patronage of the Edinburgh Missionary Society, in order to serve as a Missionary, at the religious settlement in the Caucasus. In this situation he continued at Karass, till the state of his health compelled him to leave it, in September 1808. In the month of March, 1809, he took up his residence at Moscow; and obtained very honourable and advantageous employment, as preceptor in the families of several persons of distinction.

"While thus occupied, Mr. Pinkerton never lost sight of the spiritual object to which he had considered himself devoted: and as he had been diverted from the pursuit of it in one direction, he resolved to let no opportunity escape, by which he might be enabled to promote it in another. In this state of mind, a letter from Mr. Steinkopff, at the close of 1809, decided him to turn his attention to the state of the Scriptures in Russia, and to the means of providing for them, in that extensive empire, a more general and more effectual dissemination. In the winter of 1811, Mr. Pinkerton had so far succeeded, as to have prevailed upon some of the first nobility to take an active interest in promoting the establishment of a Bible Society in the city of Moscow. In the spring of 1812, the plan of such an Institution was digested in the Russian Language; and this plan, which comprehended the Scriptures in the native Slavonian as well as the foreign dialects of the empire, was to have been submitted to his Imperial Majesty in the ensuing winter, and, in the event of its receiving the Imperial sanction, the Society was to be forthwith established at Moscow. Anxious for the accomplishment of this important undertaking, and encouraged by the success of similar exertions both at Stockholm and Abo, Mr. Pinkerton was induced to open a correspondence with Mr. Paterson, which terminated in bringing them together †."

One of the most important tours undertaken by the Society's agents, was that recently concluded by Dr. Pinkerton. Leaving his home and family at St. Petersburg in the spring of 1818, this devoted man proceeded into White Russia, Samogitia, and Lithuania, encouraging and assisting the societies already established, and preparing the way for similar institutions in

* Owen's History, Vol. I. p. 240 et seq. † Ibid. Vol. II. p. 237 et seq.

other places. In these provinces, and in many parts of the Prussian dominions, he found it his duty "to bring the consolatory doctrines of the Gospel to the wards of the sick in the hospitals, and to the cells of criminals in prisons.—With tears of gratitude (he observes) they usually received the precious boon of God's Word." Continuing his journey through Saxony, Prussia, Hanover, and Hesse Cassel, he proceeded into Switzerland, and thence through France to England. After conferring with the Committee of the Parent Society, he took his departure from London in February 1819; and after traversing France a second time, confirming and extending the interest excited in that kingdom for the great object of the Society, he proceeded through Italy to Malta, which he reached in the beginning of June. Here he "visited the friends of the Society from house to house;" and after attending an important Meeting of the Committee, and suggesting various means for extending the Biblical cause in the Mediterranean, he embarked for Corfu, where the IONIAN BIBLE SOCIETY was established on the 20th of July; and the formation of the Auxiliary Societies of Cephalonia and Zante almost immediately followed *. In communicating these gratifying events to the Parent Committee, our Christian traveller observes;—"Hindrances have been removed, the mist of ignorance has been dispelled, the most conspicuous indications of unity of principle and feeling have appeared, and the cause is now patronized and supported by the united powers of all classes of the inhabitants. '*Not unto us—not unto us,—but unto* HIM *be the glory, out of whose fulness we have all received grace for grace!*'"

In the Christian course, nothing should be considered as done, while any thing remains to be accomplished. So thought this indefatigable labourer; and proceeding by Corinth, "having constantly in view the beautiful mountain scenery of the ancient Achaia, whose every path and plain have been trodden by the Apostles and first Missionaries of the Cross," he landed in Attica; and on the 20th of August, ATHENS became the seat of a Bible Society. It is impossible to contemplate this memorable event without indulging the sanguine hope, that such an institution is designed to accomplish a great and important purpose. Established amidst the ruined temples which exhibit the evanescent nature of the wisdom that "*descendeth not from above*," we may cherish the persuasion, that

* Similar institutions, in connexion with the Ionian Bible Society, have been subsequently established at ITHACA and PAXOS; and others are in contemplation in the remainder of the Islands, as well as on the neighbouring Continent.

"*Christ crucified*" will no longer be "*unto the Greeks foolishness*," but, "*unto them who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.*"

From Athens, Dr. Pinkerton travelled to Constantinople. A primary object of this visit was the revision of the manuscript of the Turkish Bible, before it should be put to press at Paris: and the translation and printing of the Old and New Testament in Modern Greek was another object of his attention, in which, by a train of providential circumstances, he happily succeeded. Having made these important arrangements, and settled a plan for supplying the numerous Armenian population of Asia Minor and Turkey with the Holy Scriptures, he left Constantinople on the 27th of October; and after performing quarantine at Odessa, where his detention for forty-nine days afforded him an opportunity of witnessing the extraordinary success of this branch of the Russian Bible Society, he proceeded, through Moscow, to St. Petersburg, where he arrived on the 13th of January 1820, and rejoined his wife and family "after a separation of *twenty* long months." During the latter part of this tour, Dr. Pinkerton had two remarkable escapes from the plague infection, as detailed in his highly interesting letters; the last of which, announcing his arrival at St. Petersburg, supplies this appropriate apostrophe, in reference to a journey scarcely exceeded, in its importance, its object, and its extent, since the days of the Apostles:—"How often have I looked death in the face since I left home this last time—how many hundred horses have borne me along my course—not fewer than eleven different vessels have carried me from continent to continent, and from isle to isle, during the last twelve months; frequently in distress and sickness—but still preserved to praise the Redeemer of men, who suffered not a hair of my head to be touched by the hands of violence, nor a bone of my body to be broken by any unfortunate accident!"

3. It is not consistent with the design of the author to follow more closely the progress and describe the labours of these indefatigable and devoted men, however it might relieve the detail of the system. The reader is necessarily referred to the History and Annual Reports of the Society, for the particulars of their highly important services in Sweden, Denmark, Iceland, Norway, Germany, the Netherlands, Prussia, Poland, and, in an especial manner, the extensive empire of Russia. While he traces their footsteps through so considerable a portion of the globe, and estimates—if indeed it be possible to estimate—the blessings which they were the honoured instruments of conferring on their fellow-

creatures, he will appreciate the value of AGENCY in a cause like this; and acknowledge the justice of an observation already made, that its officers and advocates have been prepared and qualified, in an extraordinary manner, for the work wherein they were engaged.

4. In another and deeply interesting portion of the globe, comprising the eastern shores and islands of the Mediterranean, Egypt, Syria, and Palestine, the Society has derived great advantage from the extensive travels and zealous labours of the Rev. W. Jowett and C. Burckhardt. The latter, "a young man of superior talents, ardent piety, and the most enterprising zeal," passed some time at Alexandria and Grand Caïro; and then went to Jerusalem, where he visited all the convents and public places, and furnished them everywhere with the Word of God."—After succeeding in opening many acceptable channels for the distribution of the Scriptures, and making various important discoveries in connexion with this object in different parts of Egypt and Syria, he was suddenly carried off, by a fever at Aleppo, from his work to his reward; leaving "to his friends," as the Secretary of the Malta Bible Society very properly observes, "the memory of an example, which must impel them to redouble their efforts, that the Word of the Lord may still have free course and be glorified*."

5. As the Christian reader contemplates the disinterested zeal and perseverance of these, and many other devoted labourers in this extensive field of usefulness, he will be reminded of the great Apostle of the Gentiles. Like him, they steadily pursued their course, "*in journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; in weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness.*" As he follows the bright track which, through the mercy of GOD in Christ Jesus, they were enabled to pursue, he will indeed be induced to pause on the banks of the Ganges and the Dahl, and to linger in the vale of Tocat and the plain of Aleppo, that he may drop the tear of gratitude on the graves of BROWN and of BRUNNMARK, of MARTYN and of BURCKHARDT; but he will renew his survey, under the consoling reflection, that they devoted themselves to death "*for the word of God, and the testimony of Jesus;*"—"*as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.*" They have

* See Owen's History, Vol. III. p. 457 et seq. & 479 et seq. for many other interesting particulars relative to this faithful and indefatigable man.

entered, with PORTEUS, and BUCHANAN, and MILNER, that "*rest which remaineth for the people of God.*" May their surviving friends and colleagues, rich in the same faith, and strong in the same hope, be incited, by their example, to renewed and persevering exertion!

6. The numerous advantages derived from the employment of suitable Agents, and the extensive field which is now open to their valuable labours, render it extremely desirable that a greater number of individuals, properly qualified, should be engaged for this important department. Under these considerations, the Committee have recently renewed their exertions to obtain additional aid, and with considerable success. The following are the accredited Agents of the Institution at the present time, in the order of their appointment:—

Rev. Dr. Paterson.
Rev. Dr. Henderson.
Rev. Dr. Pinkerton.
Mr. Charles S. Dudley.
Rev. H. D. Leeves. †

The Society is also under obligations of no common kind to many Clerical and other members of local societies, for their occasional assistance; which has been sensibly felt, and gratefully appreciated. If Clergymen, and other gentlemen who are interested in the cause, would more frequently offer their temporary services in visiting Societies and Committees, it would materially promote the design of the Institution.

7. It is difficult to define with precision the duties that devolve on an accredited Agent of the Bible Society; and even the Annual Reports, and Monthly Extracts of Correspondence, supply but a faint outline of his engagements. The re-organization and encouragement of existing societies, and that assistance in the establishment of new ones, which prudence prescribes and experience suggests, constitute the more prominent feature in this outline. But the labours of an Agent, especially in reference to the domestic department, may be as profitably, though less conspicuously directed to the improvement of the system of local institutions,

† While this work was preparing for the press, intelligence was received of the decease of the Rev. Charles Williamson, who had recently been appointed one of the Society's Agents. He died in the Isle of Samos, after a short illness, on the 8th of November 1820;—thus adding another name to the list of those who "*rest from their labours,*" but whose "*works follow them.*"

and the instruction of their Committees. Nor will he be less usefully engaged, in enforcing the necessity of a strict and inviolable adherence to the fundamental principle of the Society, and extending information relative to its practical results. Under the head of "Concluding Observations," at the end of this chapter, such further remarks will be introduced, as appear necessary with regard to this important subject.

8. It would indeed be unjust to close this section without a distinct reference to an individual, whose indefatigable zeal and invaluable services are beyond all praise.—Professor Van Ess is thus introduced by the historian of the Bible Society:—

"About this period (towards the close of 1812) a new labourer presented himself to notice, and claimed, through the channel of its Foreign Secretary, the attention and assistance of the British and Foreign Bible Society, on behalf of the German Catholics. This labourer was the Rev. Leander Van Ess, who, together with his brother, had produced a Translation of the Testament from the Greek; which the first Protestant Clergymen at Dresden and Zurich* concurred, with respectable authorities among the Roman-Catholic Literati, in recommending, as exhibiting a pure and correct version of the Sacred Original. This Catholic Professor of Divinity (for to that office he had been recently appointed in the University of Marburg) described the solicitude of the people to obtain the Scriptures as exceeding not only his means of supplying them, but almost any conception which the most sanguine mind could ever have entertained. 'It is true (he says) that the New Testament is pretty well distributed in our circle; but what are a few copies among so many? They are like the five loaves among those 4000 that lay at the feet of our Lord. May the great Head of the Church multiply this heavenly bread, as he once did the earthly, to the satisfying of all!.... The fields, (he continues) are more and more ripening for the harvest, by the increasing oppression of the times. All earthly comforts are vanishing from the children of men: ill-treated, plundered, and heavy-laden as they are, their eyes, full of tears, look for refreshment and comfort towards the realms above, where alone they are to be found. This is the time to work: the hearts of men, humbled and softened, are more accessible to divine light and truth; they are opening, like the dry ground that languishes for the fertilizing shower: their eyes desire to see the salvation offered to them in the Word of God.'"

And again, with a degree of importunity, truly affecting, he urges his suit in the following terms:—

"'For Christ's sake, I intreat you to let me have a number of our New Testaments for distribution! My sphere of usefulness is extending more and more: many worthy Clergymen of our Church join themselves to me, who, with the most lively zeal for the cause of God, assist me in my endea-

* The late Rev. Dr. Reinhard, first Chaplain to the Court of Saxony; and the present venerable Superior of the Zurich Clergy, Antistes Hess.

vours to do good. My request is for the highest and best gift; even for the Scriptures of truth, which are able to make men wise unto salvation.' * "

In availing themselves of this enlightened Catholic, the Committee had another opportunity of manifesting their scrupulous and watchful adherence to their great and fundamental principle. It was made a primary condition of any grant, that the few notes accompanying his own impression should be struck out from that which was to be printed and circulated at the expense of the British and Foreign Bible Society. With this condition he cheerfully complied. His object was, the glory of God, and the temporal and eternal welfare of his fellow-creatures: this object he has pursued "with an intrepidity and perseverance increased, rather than diminished, by the difficulties and perils to which he saw himself exposed." In one of his letters to the Committee, he observes,—

"There is a great and irresistible desire in the people to have the Bible: the newly-issued mandates against reading the Scriptures have only tended to quicken attention, and to increase this desire. There is now a spirit evidently rising against the violated rights of conscience, which neither the sword nor any canonical proceedings can possibly stifle: and what right is more sacred than the undisturbed possession of that inestimable book, which is the property of all; which is given from Heaven, to inspire faith, hope, consolation, and peace, for time and eternity; and which is as much a man's property, as God himself is his portion?"

Within little more than three years and a half, ending in February 1820, Professor Van Ess had distributed 339,488 copies of his Catholic New Testament, and 287 Catholic Bibles, besides 10,639 Lutheran Bibles and Testaments; making a total of 350,414 copies.

Of the visible effects of the circulation, he thus speaks:—

In some villages, meetings are held on sabbaths and other festivals, during which the New Testament is read with much edification. Wherever it is introduced into schools, a cheering dawn of the approaching day in the kingdom of God may be perceived. "You," he observes, addressing the Committee of the British and Foreign Bible Society, "have brought thousands nearer their Saviour and their salvation; you have conducted them

* See Owen's History, Vol. II. p. 229 et seq. for an animated account of this extraordinary man, who is thus described in the 3d Volume of the History:—"Leander Van Ess is now in the prime of life. He appears to be about forty years of age. His countenance is intelligent and manly; his conversation fluent and animated; and his whole manner partakes of that ardour and vivacious energy, which so remarkably characterize all his writings and operations. The dissemination of the Scriptures, and the blessed effects with which it is attended, are the theme on which he delights to discourse; they seem to occupy his whole soul, and to constitute, in a manner, the element in which he exists."

to the invisible Head of the Church; you have opened to them the pure inexhaustible fountain, from which they may draw light in darkness, rest when oppressed by a sense of sin, comfort under the weight of affliction, undaunted courage on the approach of death, peace and joy in this world, and perfect bliss in that which is to come *."

With the name of Leander Van Ess, those of M. Gossner of Munich (now of St. Petersburg), and Regens Wittman of Ratisbon, will be united in the grateful affection of mankind. The aggregate number of copies of the Holy Scriptures distributed by these three enlightened Catholics, chiefly through the aid furnished by the British and Foreign Bible Society, considerably exceeds HALF A MILLION.

The following extract of a letter from the pious and intrepid Gossner shall conclude this division of the chapter:—

"In the midst of all contradictions, blasphemies, and persecutions, the peaceful kingdom of God makes rapid advances: many, both of the Clergy and Laity, are awakened and illumined by the Word of truth, and the Gospel of our salvation. God himself seems to have excited a hunger after this wholesome food; and there are many flocking to me,—soldiers and students, citizens and peasants, servant-men and servant-women, whose hearts I can gladden by nothing more than by the gift of a New Testament."

SECTION VIII.

PUBLICATIONS OF THE SOCIETY.

Nothing, humanly speaking, has more essentially contributed to the extension and success of the society, than the publicity of all its proceedings. From the earliest period of its establishment, the Committee were sensible, that, in order to obtain general support and co-operation, it was only requisite to explain its object and its principles, and circulate information relative to the necessity which existed for such an institution. If the importance of this measure was evident at the commencement of their labours, it became still more so at a subsequent period, when the purity of those principles, and the existence of that necessity, were called in question. Nor was it less desirable that the friends of the society, at home and abroad, should be put in possession of those interesting details relative to its progress and success, by which the hearts of the Committee were cheered, and their hands strengthened, in the discharge of their arduous duties.

To these combined causes may be attributed the numerous works, explanatory and illustrative, which have tended to

* Owen's History, Vol. III. p. 98.

satisfy the public mind on this important subject—to silence, if not to convince, those whose sentiments were adverse to the society—and to confirm the zeal and interest of its friends and advocates. They may be divided into two classes; the *regular* and *periodical* publications of the society, and those which may be denominated *occasional.*

2. Under the former class, may be included,—

I. *The Annual Report,*

which, with its Appendix, contains a compendium of the proceedings, and a selection of the correspondence, during the preceding twelve months; an account of all contributions and legacies; an alphabetical list of Auxiliayr and Branch Societies; a catalogue of the various editions of the Holy Scriptures on sale at the Depository; a statement of all grants of Bibles and Testaments, and money made by the Committee; an abstract of the cash account, as signed by the Auditors; and a list of contributors,—the latter being appended to a limited number of copies. Every member of the Parent Society may receive a copy of the Annual Report; and a similar privilege is extended to the Presidents, and such other officers of local societies as, from their services and exertions, possess a peculiar claim on the gratitude of the Committee. The proportion allotted to every institution at home, and to kindred societies throughout the world, is assigned under the direction of the Local Sub-Committee, with a due regard to that economy which is so essentially requisite. Some further observations, in reference to this subject, will be found in the sequel.

II. *The Summary.*

It is much to be desired, that a new and revised edition of this admirable abridgment of the Annual Reports, designed for more general circulation, should be speedily published. The last was issued in 1816, and has long been out of print. While it is freely conceded, that a due regard to economy should pervade every department of the institution, the application of this principle cannot be admitted in reference to "the Summary;" as the expense attending its occasional (suppose *triennial*) publication may be beneficially counterbalanced by a judicious curtailment of the Annual Reports, and a reduction of the number usually printed. There are numerous individuals who cannot spare time to peruse, with attention, the voluminous records of the society, to whom an epitome of its most interesting transactions from the earliest period, arranged in lucid and systematic order, would

be truly valuable. Such a work, which might be comprised within the compass of fifty or sixty pages, is at present a desideratum.

III. *The Brief View,*

AND

IV. *The Compendium.*

The circulation of these papers has been productive of incalculable advantage; and they are strongly recommended to National Bible Societies, as models of a condensed exposition of the nature, design, and effects of their institution. As these two valuable papers will be included in the Appendix, it is unnecessary to describe them more particularly. They should be liberally distributed previous to the formation of an Auxiliary Society, and in all cases where it is desirable to correct misrepresentation, or to extend a knowledge of the society.

V. *Monthly Extracts of Correspondence.*

The introduction of this important part of the system, and the beneficial effects which have followed its adoption, justify a more particular consideration of its merits.

It had long been the practice of the Committee, to gratify the friends of the society with the occasional publication of interesting and important information, relative to the progress and results of the institution. The general satisfaction derived from these communications, and the example of cotemporary societies established for kindred purposes, induced a persuasion, that the more regular periodical issue of certain portions of intelligence, which the correspondence of the society abundantly supplied, would materially tend to the preservation and extension of an interest in the common efforts both abroad and at home. The result has afforded ample proof of the correctness of this anticipation. The first number of the "Monthly Extracts" was published in August 1817; and was so appropriately and impressively introduced, that no apology is necessary for inserting the following

"ADDRESS TO AUXILIARY SOCIETIES, &c.

"It appears to the Committee of the British and Foreign Bible Society, to have become highly expedient that a plan should be adopted for transmitting to the various societies in connexion with the parent institution, more frequent communications than have heretofore been usual, of the interesting intelligence from time to time received, relative to the progress of the great work in which their efforts are united. The Committee regard it, indeed, little less than an act of duty, to impart to the friends of the cause, in every part of the empire, a portion of those moral treasures

Committee's Address relative to the Monthly Extracts.

which are continually flowing in from all quarters of the world; and to admit them to share, with as little delay as possible, in the enjoyment of those fruits, to the production of which their local exertions have so materially contributed.

"But the Committee, in resorting to this plan, have an object beyond that of conveying satisfaction and delight. They are deeply sensible of the beneficial influence produced upon their own minds, by the communications from distant lands, read to them at their periodical meetings, both in exciting their gratitude, and stimulating their exertions; and they are anxious to establish such means of intercourse as may enable them to extend, as widely as possible, these salutary impressions. Experience has taught them to believe, that if extracts from the most interesting parts of the society's correspondence were read in the meetings of the Local Committees, and distributed among the members, for the information of others, it would tend greatly to enliven the spirit of those meetings, and to invigorate and expand the general zeal.

"Under this conviction, the Committee have determined to issue, in the last week of every month, a sheet of brief extracts, from their articles of correspondence, similar in form to the present, with a view to their being read at the meetings of the Committees of the different Auxiliary and Branch Societies and Bible Associations, and distributed among their officers, members of Committee, and gratuitous collectors.

"These Extracts will be transmitted to the secretaries of the Auxiliary Societies, who are earnestly requested to forward, without delay, a due proportion of the present, and of all succeeding numbers, to the secretaries of the several Branch Societies and Associations within their respective districts, so as to ensure the receipt of them in time for the meetings in each ensuing month.

"The Committee anticipate much good from this measure, if their views are followed up by their friends in the country; and they trust they may reckon upon a diligent and punctual co-operation from the Auxiliary Societies, in giving it effect in the manner suggested.

"As Auxiliary Societies may expect to derive considerable accession of strength, and even of pecuniary advantage, by circulating, and encouraging their Branch Societies and Bible Associations to circulate, copies of these papers, greatly beyond the extent which the Parent Committee would consider themselves authorised gratuitously to furnish, provision will be made for an extra demand; and Auxiliary Societies may, for that purpose, be supplied with any quantity, on application to the Depositary, Mr. Cockle, at the Society's House, Earl Street, Blackfriars, at the rate of Four shillings per hundred, provided the order for them be received within the month immediately following the date of each number."

The best evidence of the satisfaction with which this paper is received throughout the numerous affiliated societies, will be found in the fact, that 40,000 copies are scarcely sufficient to satisfy the monthly demands.—In many associations, and especially in those conducted by ladies, every free contributor of half-a-guinea or upwards per annum is presented with a copy monthly, and to regular subscribers of smaller sums they are lent for perusal. The following extracts are selected from a great variety of testimonies in favour of this measure:—

"The Monthly Extracts from the correspondence of the British and

Testimonies to the advantages of the Monthly Extracts.

Foreign Bible Society continue to be circulated by this association, and appear to interest the lower classes of the inhabitants. The collectors have in some instances been reminded by the free subscribers, that they regard the regular perusal of them as their privilege and their right, while they continue to support the cause."—HAMPSTEAD *and* HIGHGATE *Fourth Annual Report.*

"The portion of the correspondence published monthly by the Committee of the Parent Society affords much true delight, and creates general interest. It is reported by one of the District Committees, that 'a little boy was so much delighted on reading one of the Monthly Extracts, that he immediately requested his mother, at whose house it had been left, to allow him to give the penny a week, which he had to buy cakes, &c. to the Bible Society, which was readily complied with;' and he is now a free subscriber to the Ladies' Bible Association."—NORTHAMPTON *Second Annual Report.*

"You would be surprised to see the avidity with which the Monthly Extracts are read, among the more sober and intelligent of the poor of our several districts. The greatest difficulty in an Association is, to keep up the interest, and consequently the subscriptions of the small weekly free contributors. *This difficulty is most effectually met by the constant and systematic circulation of the Monthly Extracts.* One or two of our subscribers have expressed their disappointment and regret in very strong terms, when they have been accidentally passed over by the Collectors."

Letter from the PLYMOUTH *Minute Secretary, Jan.* 1820.

"The interesting intelligence, and solid advantages, which have been derived from the Monthly Extracts issued by the Parent Society, have come under the grateful observation of your Committee. The benefits have been considerably increased by the judicious plan adopted by the Ladies' Committee, of circulating them among the free subscribers, subsequent to their perusal at the Committee meeting. The good effects of this measure are sufficient to justify your Committee in earnestly recommending its continued use and universal adoption."—HORSHAM *Fifth Annual Report.*

The *certain* publication of these extracts on the last day of every month, causes them to be anticipated with joy in every part of the kingdom. Often has the author beheld the mechanic or the peasant seated, after the labours of the day, in the midst of his family, listening with eager interest, as his wife or child read this announcement of "*good news from a far country,*" or the triumphs of the Bible in his native land: and more than once has he heard the humble dwelling resound with the accents of praise and gratitude to GOD, who had enabled its lowly inmates to co-operate in so great and glorious a work! Surely, at a period like the present, when far different publications are so widely circulated, it is a subject for congratulation, that *this* is added to the list of periodical antidotes to the poison of infidelity and sedition.

The example of the Parent Institution, in this, as in other respects, was speedily followed, both at home and abroad.

The Hibernian Bible Society published its first Monthly Sheet in November 1818;—a quarterly selection of Extracts in the Welsh language, printed at Bala, commenced at Michaelmas 1819;—and the important continental tour of

The plan adopted in Ireland, Switzerland, and Denmark.

the Clerical Secretary, in the autumn of 1818, led to the adoption of a similar expedient at Geneva, Bâsle, and other places in Germany, on an extensive and systematic scale.

The following extracts will afford satisfactory evidence, that the beneficial effects of the measure now under consideration are not confined to our own country:—

"The German translation of the Monthly Extracts has been attended with very considerable advantages. Copies of them have been widely circulated both in Switzerland and Germany; and the perusal of them has tended greatly to dispel prejudice, to encourage exertion, and to excite, in those who before were languid or indifferent, a degree of zeal which promises the happiest fruits. Your Committee cannot forbear citing, as illustrative of the general spirit of these remarks, the liberality of a carrier, who voluntarily transported from Bâsle to Zurich several packages of Bibles, destined for Chur, of nearly 30 cwt., without receiving any compensation.

"Of the Geneva Bible Society, your Committee will speak in the brief but satisfactory statement of its excellent President. 'Our biblical labours proceed well: thanks to your powerful support. The translation of the sheets of correspondence is attended with success; and the transmission of them into France appears to have produced great benefit.'" *

Extract of a Letter from the Rev. Dr. HENDERSON; *dated* COPENHAGEN, *April* 30, 1819.

"It must have given you great pleasure to hear that a Monthly Paper has been projected, somewhat analogous to your Monthly Extracts. The Committee look to your Extracts as the principal source whence to draw the most interesting matter relative to the progress of the Society." †

It was finally decided by the Committee of the Danish Bible Society, to adopt the measure; and the publication has regularly appeared, in monthly succession, since the close of 1819, with the best effects.

Extract of a Letter from the Rev. THEOPHILUS BLUMHARDT; *dated* BASLE, *December* 1, 1819.

"An expedient which, under the blessing of GOD, has been evidently greatly instrumental in furthering the cause of Bible Societies in Germany, by diffusing information of the most encouraging kind, are the Monthly Extracts, of which 7000 copies are every month going forth into the German world. They have proved a bond of fraternal union among the different institutions; and from every quarter we receive the expressions of the warmest gratitude for this blessed gift of the honoured Parent Society. Mr. Breitinger assured me, that these sheets had paved the way for their society appearing, now, before a public better prepared to appreciate its object and tendency. In Bern, and in the whole of Würtemberg, they are read in the monthly meetings of the different associations, which are daily gaining more consistency and regularity. Thousands among the wealthy and the poor have, by these sheets, been brought to co-operate with Bible Societies, who had not before manifested any interest in the

* Sixteenth Report of the British and Foreign Bible Society, p. xxxi & xxxv. About 10,000 copies of the Monthly Extracts are printed at Bâsle; of which 7000 are in German, and the remainder in French.

† Sixteenth Report, Appendix, p. 59.

cause. May the Lord abundantly bless the noble Parent Institution, for this, as well as for so many proofs of its Christian solicitude!"*

From the Secretary of the GOTHENBURG *Bible Society, dated Sept.* 30, 1819.

"I request you to send us the following numbers of your Monthly Extracts; namely, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12, 19, and 22; which we either have not received, or lost by frequently lending them to friends: these extracts are so edifying, and so adapted to awaken an interest for the Bible cause, that a complete collection of them would be considered a truly valuable gift."†

From a Gentleman in UPPER CANADA, *dated* KINGSTON, *January* 12, 1820.

"Our friends in England are not generally able to form an adequate idea of the happiness the majority of British Christians abroad experience, on learning the progress of that Institution, upon which the greatest part of the world are looking with solicitude for its utmost success. From every quarter we are asked for the sheets of Monthly Extracts, which give great satisfaction."‡

From the Third Annual Report of the AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY, 1819.

"Believing that in proportion as the public mind is informed, public feeling will be excited and a corresponding activity produced on behalf of Bible Societies, the Board of Managers have directed the publication of a periodical work, entitled "Quarterly Extracts." The good effects of this measure have already been felt; and the Board would take the liberty of suggesting to the members of the society, the expediency of contributing, by their example and influence, to the circulation and perusal of the publication."

The Committee of the *Russian Bible Society*—never the last to adopt any measure for consolidating and extending the interests of the cause—perceived the numerous advantages of this plan at a very early period, and regularly issue a monthly "Paper of business," similar in its tendency and effects.

A monthly publication at *Berlin*, exclusively devoted to the Bible and Missionary Societies, regularly gives a translation of the "Monthly Extracts" as printed in London, which are thus circulated throughout the *Prussian* dominions.

The good effects produced by these publications is spoken of in strong terms by correspondents from every quarter: they are stated to have contributed more than any thing else towards convincing those who were previously adverse or indifferent, removing prejudice, and securing the good-will and co-operation of many who formerly kept at a distance.

The "Monthly Extracts" are published, as has been already stated, on the last day of every month, and are successively numbered and dated: they are regularly forwarded

* Sixteenth Report, Appendix, p. 80.

† Ibid. p. 141.

‡ Ibid. p. 205.

Circulation of Speeches, Addresses, &c.—beneficial effects.

to all the Auxiliary Societies within the United Kingdom, and transmitted to kindred institutions on the continent of Europe, and in the other quarters of the globe. It should be an object of particular attention with the Committees of all these societies, that their Branches and Associations are regularly supplied with copies; and a degree of liberality in this respect will be found highly conducive to the interests of the respective national institutions, as well as to those of religion and morality.

Were every National and Central Bible Society to adopt this admirable plan, and publish a monthly sheet of correspondence and transactions, the results would be incalculably beneficial. Circulated throughout all their affiliated institutions, and a copy sent to every National Bible Society throughout the world, the spirit of Christian union and benevolence would gradually extend;—the tidings that filled a *British* heart with gratitude and joy, would produce a responsive glow of delight at *St. Petersburg* and *Calcutta*; and the notes of praise that arose on the banks of the *Delaware* or the *St. Lawrence*, be resounded on the shores of the *Baltic* and the *Caspian*. While the press is employed in proclaiming, with almost electrical rapidity, throughout the world, the follies and the vices of mankind, let us endeavour to consecrate it to the duty of announcing to all kindreds, nations, tongues, and people, THE BLOODLESS TRIUMPHS OF THE PRINCE OF PEACE.

3. Under the class of *Occasional* publications, a numerous list of valuable documents, speeches, addresses, &c. may be included; the design and effect of which are thus described by the society's historian:—

"Another cause of the increased impression, which has been observed as characteristic of this era of the society (1812—1813) was the prodigious distribution of certain minor publications, adapted to explain its principles, and to confute the objections which, under different forms, were industriously circulated with a view to its prejudice, and, were that possible, to its extinction. This plan, which was devised and conducted by Richard Phillips, Esq. consisted in selecting such speeches, addresses, or other compositions, as were considered to be popular and impressive, and dispersing them, by means of a private subscription, in those parts of the country which required to be brought into a state of excitement, or to be fortified against the influence of sophistry and misrepresentation. To these causes—the regular publications of the Parent Society and its Auxiliaries, the productions arising out of the existing controversy, and the minor pieces thrown into circulation by private liberality, all co-operating in their several degrees—we are to ascribe, under the blessing of Providence, that rapid growth of the institution which exhibited, between its eighth and ninth anniversary, an addition of seventy-five new establishments to the number

of its Auxiliary Societies, and an advancement of its income, through that channel, from £.24,813. 5*s.* to £.55,099. 3*s.* 10*d.*" *

Several of those papers will be more particularly alluded to, in reference to Auxiliary Societies and Associations; and such of them as have been found most useful will be included in the Appendix.

With regard to those more voluminous works which explain and defend the principle and practice of the society, it may be sufficient to observe, that they do not fall within the scope of the author's design. His pages might, indeed, be easily enriched by quotations from the masterly productions of Dealtry, Milner, Vansittart, Owen, Cunningham, Otter, Cooper, Gisborne, and many other advocates of the institution; but the reader will find this part of the subject so ably treated in the History of the Society, that it is only necessary to refer him to those interesting volumes.

SECTION IX.

FOREIGN NATIONAL SOCIETIES.

1. Having considered, under the preceding heads, those various means and instruments to which the Parent Institution is indebted for her extraordinary success, it is necessary to take a review of those kindred societies which owe their establishment to her splendid example, and her munificent liberality. In discharging this duty, it may not be unnecessary to premise, that the manners and habits of foreign nations —with the single exception of the United States of America— preclude a perfect assimilation to the system adopted in our own country, although the *object* of all their Bible Institutions is identified with that of the Parent Society. Whether the suggestions respectfully submitted in the present work be applicable to continental establishments, it is not for the author to decide; but having no reason to suppose that their organization is more complete than that of many of our domestic societies, he is induced, from experience, to believe that an improvement in this respect will be eminently conducive to their extension and success.

2. Without entering into a detailed statement of those causes which led to the formation of the numerous foreign societies, it cannot be uninteresting to observe, that the first of these institutions was established in a country which has been emphatically termed the Cradle of the Reformation.

* Owen's Hist. of the Brit. and For. Bible Society, Vol. II. p. 203 et seq.

The importance of this commencement justifies the insertion of the following extract:—

"The communication which had taken place with certain individuals of piety and influence in the imperial city of Nuremberg, led to the proposition of granting a donation of £.100 from the British and Foreign Bible Society, in the event of a similar institution being founded in that place. The result of this proposition was, the establishment of the first Foreign Bible Society. The foundation of it was laid on the 10th of May 1804; and the pious simplicity of the correspondent on whom it devolved to take the lead in the transaction, gives a pleasing interest to the following statement of the manner in which it was effected:—'We cannot but return you our most humble thanks for having encouraged us in the most liberal manner to co-operate with you in this excellent work of love. While reading your kind invitation and offer, I was deeply impressed with that scripture—*They beckoned to their partners which were in the other ship, that they should come and help them; and they came and filled both ships, so that they began to sink.*—Your letter afforded me so much joy, that I could not contain myself, but immediately went to the Rev. John Godfried Schœner, one of the most respectable ministers of our city, in order to communicate to him the joyful news from a far country. He was no less affected than myself: and we agreed to appoint a meeting of Christian friends on Ascension Day, at which we unanimously resolved to unite for the formation of a Bible Society, and, by a printed letter, to invite our Christian friends throughout Germany and Switzerland to assist us in so noble an undertaking.' This Address was soon after issued; and while the generosity of England was warmly commended, and held up as an example, an animated appeal was made to the reverers of the Bible, 'which yet remains the Bible of all religious parties,' to lend their aid in promoting its distribution. 'The inherent value of the book, the religious wants of the people, the critical circumstances of the times, the present tranquillity of the states,' together with other cogent reasons, were seriously urged, as 'loudly calling for attention to this important undertaking.'"*

The seat of the German Bible Society was subsequently removed to BÂSLE, with the cordial consent of all the parties concerned; and no similar institution on the continent has evinced a greater degree of prudence, ardour, and efficiency.

3. The establishment of this institution was followed, in the commencement of 1806, by that of the BERLIN Bible Society.

"No fire burns upon the altar of the LORD, without spreading its flames around. This fire has also extended its flames. The zeal of Christians in England has also infused itself into the hearts of Christians in Germany."

Such was the language of the Berlin Bible Society, in an admirable Address issued soon after its formation, "To the Christians of the Prussian States." This address was enclosed in an excellent letter from the Rev. John Jænickè to the King of Prussia; and the following reply gave the sanction of Royal approbation to the infant society:—

* Owen's History, Vol. I. p. 111 et seq.

Encouragement held out to Foreign Bible Societies.

"It is with real satisfaction that I discover, from your letter of the 7th of February and the inclosed Address, the laudable endeavours of the Prussian Bible Society, for the gratuitous and cheap distribution of the Bible to the poor of my dominions; and while I render justice to your particular merit in promoting such an useful institution, I transmit to you, at the same time, 20 Frederick d'ors, as an addition to its funds.

"I am your gracious King,

"February 11, 1806. "FREDERICK WILLIAM."

This institution may be considered as the germ of the Central Prussian Bible Society, established in the summer of 1814, on a more regular and systematic basis.

4. The first institution of a kindred nature on the Western Continent, was the PHILADELPHIA Bible Society, established in December 1808:—

"The intelligence was officially announced, in terms which ascribed the formation of the Philadelphia Bible Society to the example and influence of the British and Foreign Bible Society, and respectfully and affectionately deferred to it as to a patroness and a parent. In an admirable Address, the managers of this first American Society unfolded their views, with regard to the origin and design of their institution. Its origin (as has already been mentioned) they attribute 'to the example offered, and the efforts made, by the British and Foreign Bible Society.'—'From the time (they say) that it was known in this city, it attracted the marked attention of several persons, accustomed to take an interest in whatever is calculated to extend the influence of revealed truth. It was immediately seen, that the necessity for such an institution was the same here as in Europe; and that there was every reason to believe, that, if suitable exertions were made, it could not fail of encouragement.' After assigning their reasons for choosing their limited designation, they express a hope, 'that the time is not distant, when they shall see institutions, similar to their own, in the town of Boston, and in the cities of New Haven, New York, Baltimore, Richmond, and Savannah, and in the town of Lexington and the state of Kentucky.' And they assert, that they 'will at all times be ready cordially to greet, as a sister institution, every Bible Society, in whatever place or part of their country it shall appear.'"*

The hope thus expressed by the friends of the cause in Philadelphia was speedily realized, in the formation of numerous Bible Societies throughout the United States; but it was not until the spring of 1817 that the greater number of these insulated establishments were connected, "with a harmony and unanimity almost unparalleled in so large a body,"† as Auxiliaries to a national institution under the appropriate designation of the AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY.

5. It has been observed by the historian of the society, that "almost every thing that is wise and efficient in the practical departments of the institution, has arisen out of

* Owen's History, Vol. I. p. 399 et seq.

† See Letter from the President, Thirteenth Report of the British and Foreign Bible Society—Appendix, No. xv.

accidental and extemporaneous discussion." Of the truth of this observation, many striking evidences will be adduced in the following pages; but in no instances is it more remarkable, than in the origin of foreign societies; their progressive approach towards national or central institutions; and the improvement of the system on which they were originally constituted.

Within six weeks after the formation of the British and Foreign Bible Society, the design was conceived of affording encouragement, by pecuniary grants, to the formation of Bible Societies on the continent, in preference to granting immediate relief by limited and merely temporary supplies of Bibles and Testaments. The results of this suggestion, as beheld in the success of more than 600 foreign societies, afford an incontestable proof of its wisdom; while the increase of that success has been in direct proportion to the degree in which the constitution of those societies has approached that of their common parent. In the instances already referred to, and in those of the STOCKHOLM, ABO, PETERSBURG, and many other societies subsequently established, the design of a general national institution does not appear to have entered into the contemplation of the original projectors, but to have been the result of casual observation or accidental circumstance.

The improvements which have, from time to time, taken place in their constitution and modes of proceeding, may be traced to similar causes; and although the object and principle of the parent society appear to be distinctly recognised by all, it may admit of a doubt, whether the *system* of some be not susceptible of a yet greater degree of improvement.

In order to illustrate this part of the subject, the Constitutions of the Russian and American Societies are selected.

6. The St. Petersburg Society was established on the 23d of January 1813; and celebrated its first anniversary on the 26th of September 1814, when its designation was changed to that of the RUSSIAN BIBLE SOCIETY. The plan of this remarkable institution cannot be more appropriately introduced, than by the Imperial Ukase, permitting the formation of the society, of which the following is a translation:—

MEMORIAL, *most humbly submitted to his Imperial Majesty, by the Director-General of the Spiritual Concerns of the Foreign Churches.*

Petersburg, Dec. 6, 1812. *Old Style.*

The British and Foreign Bible Society, the design of which is to spread the doctrines of the Holy Scriptures in different languages and among various nations, being fully convinced that, in the Russian Empire, many

philanthropic Christians will be found who are desirous to advance the temporal and eternal welfare of their fellow-creatures, has requested one of its members, the Rev. J. Paterson, to promote the establishment of a Bible Society in St. Petersburg, provided it should meet with the approbation of your Imperial Majesty.

The proposal of Mr. Paterson has induced many persons to express a wish that a Bible Society might actually be formed in this capital; being persuaded that such an institution would prove highly beneficial, and being desirous themselves to take an active part in the same. Influenced by sentiments like these, Mr. Paterson has presented to me a Plan for the formation of such a society, and requested me to lay it before your Imperial Majesty, and to intreat your most gracious sanction of the proposed measure.

While the printing of the Holy Scriptures in the Slavonic language, for the use of the Professors of the Russian Greek religion, is to remain under the sole and exclusive controul of the Holy Synod, I consider the abovementioned Plan truly useful for the dissemination of the Old and New Testament among the professors of foreign churches resident in Russia, by enabling the less wealthy to purchase copies at a cheap rate, and by supplying the poor gratuitously.

Encouraged by the sanction which your Imperial Majesty has been pleased to give to the Bible Society lately formed at Abo, I feel emboldened to present this Plan to your Imperial Majesty for examination; and to submit it to your most gracious consideration, Whether your Imperial Majesty may not think proper to direct, that the Plan suggested by the British and Foreign Bible Society, for the formation of a similar institution in Petersburg, on the principles therein stated, should be carried into execution.

(Signed) PRINCE ALEXANDER GALITZIN.

Approved by His Imperial Majesty, who subscribed with his own hand,
"*Be it so.* ALEXANDER."*

PLAN *of the Petersburg Bible Society, with its Rules & Regulations.*

I. The *sole* object of this Society shall be, to promote the circulation of the Holy Scriptures without note or comment.

II. The Society shall consist of all such persons (of whatever religious persuasion they may be) as, convinced of the usefulness of diffusing the Holy Scriptures among all ranks and classes of people, but more especially among the poor, are willing to join the same, and to co-operate in its exertions.

III. As in the extensive Russian Empire, besides the established Russian Greek Church, all other Christian denominations are tolerated, the professors of which, being of different nations, speak severally their own languages, the principal aim of the society shall be directed to the diffusion of the Holy Scriptures among the Christian inhabitants of these countries in their own vernacular tongues. But should the society be furnished with sufficient means, it shall extend its benevolent views to supply the Asiatic tribes of Russia, who profess the Mahometan or Heathen religion, with the same, each people in its peculiar dialect.

IV. In order to procure for the society the needful means to enable it to print the Scriptures in various languages, and defray all current expenses, a

* Ninth Report of the British and Foreign Bible Society, App. No. XXXII.

Rules and Regulations of the Russian Bible Society.

subscription shall be made, which is open to every one, not only in St. Petersburg, but all over the empire. This subscription may be renewed every year, while donations will be received at all times. Every one who endeavours to promote the undertaking of the society, by subscriptions or donations, will be considered one of its members.

For the commencement and encouragement of such a society, the British and Foreign Bible Society has destined the sum of 500*l.*, which will form part of its funds. The said society has also declared its readiness to contribute further assistance, if circumstances should appear to require it.

V. A Committee shall be chosen, consisting of a President, two or more Vice-Presidents, a Treasurer, two Secretaries, and six or more Directors, five of whom, with the President, or one of the Vice-Presidents, are competent to transact business.

VI. The President, Vice-Presidents, Treasurer, Secretaries, and Directors, shall be chosen from among the members of the Society.

VII. Half of the Directors shall go out annually. From the other half, such as have most frequently attended the meetings of the past year may be re-elected.

VIII. There shall be an Annual General Meeting of the Society in the month of March, in which a new Committee is to be chosen, the Accounts presented, and a report made of the transactions of the past year; which Report, together with an authenticated statement of the income and expenditure of the society, and a list of subscribers and benefactors, is to be printed for the use of the members.

IX. The Committee is authorised, in case of any emergency, to call a Special General Meeting of the society. The Committee has it in charge to devise the best means of furthering its designs, to exert itself in procuring an increase of members, and to appoint, from its number, Sub-Committees in various parts of the empire, which are to be dependent on the General Committee, and actively engaged in the promotion of its views. The Committee has also to attend to the augmentation and security of the funds of the society, and to the most economical expenditure of the money, in the purchase of Bibles, or the printing of new editions of the Holy Scriptures in various languages.

X. The Committee is regularly to meet at the commencement of each month, or oftener, if it be necessary.

XI. At the General or Committee's Meeting, the President, or, in his absence, the first Vice-President on the list who attends, is to take the chair.

XII. The Treasurer shall receive all subscriptions and donations, for which his receipt is a sufficient acknowledgment. It is incumbent on him to keep regular accounts of all the society's income and expenditure, which must always be open for the inspection of the Committee. His accounts must be presented to the Committee on the close of the month of January in each year, to be examined by auditors appointed for that purpose.

All orders on the Treasurer for payment of money, in consequence of a resolution of the Committee, must be signed by the President or Vice-President who attends the meeting, and countersigned by the Secretary.

XIII. The Secretaries must keep regular minutes at all meetings of the society, which are to be signed by the President: they are also to conduct the correspondence.

XIV. All officers of the society must serve gratuitously. No one, who receives any salary from this society, can be a member of its Committee, or possess the privilege of voting at any of its meetings.

Emperor of Russia's liberality.—Improvement of the system.

While the Russian Bible Society is indebted for much of its extraordinary success to the ardent zeal and piety of its illustrious President, Prince Galitzin, Minister of Religion, it is to the decided attachment and paternal solicitude of the Emperor himself we must ascribe, humanly speaking, its astonishing progress towards the attainment of its object. Shortly after the establishment of the institution, he desired to be entered as one of its members, with a donation of 25,000 rubles, and an annual subscription of 10,000.*

"Nor should it pass unobserved, that the Emperor postponed his departure for the army, in order to examine the plan submitted for his approbation; and that at the time when he was affixing his signature to the instrument which was to authorise the establishment of a Bible Society for the benefit of his subjects, the last enemy was crossing the Vistula, and the deliverance of his empire was completed."†

It will be perceived, that the original plan of the Russian Bible Society did not provide for the establishment of Auxiliary Institutions, although the appointment of "Sub-Committees in various parts of the empire" laid a suitable foundation for this essential improvement of the system. The first Auxiliary Society was established at Moscow, on the 16th of July 1813, under the designation of "The Moscow Committee of the Bible Society;" and the importance of this first advance towards a more perfect constitution will be appreciated, when it is stated, that, by their second statute, the Moscow Committee pledge themselves to "assist the St. Petersburg Committee in every part of their plan, to further the distribution of the Bible *without note or comment*:"—to which it was added, "But this Committee shall in particular strive to disseminate *our own Bibles among our fellow Russian subjects*, as published by the Holy Synod, according to the manner already determined, and partly executed by the St. Petersburg Committee." This last provision, as has been very properly observed by Mr. Owen, gave the last finish to the constitution of the St. Petersburg Bible Society:—by authorising the dissemination of the Slavonian Scriptures, a deficiency was supplied which would have greatly abridged its usefulness: the entire population of the empire, both native and foreign, was now brought within the scope of its benevolent design; and it became in effect, what it was afterwards in designation, "The Russian Bible Society."

* The value of a ruble is about one shilling English money.

† Owen's History, Vol. II. p. 247-8.

The following abstract of the proceedings of the Russian Bible Society, to the period of its seventh anniversary in July 1820, constitutes the best comment on this extension of its object and improvement of its system:—

Number of Auxiliary Societies in the empire .	53
Ditto of Bible Associations	143
Total	196

During the seven years of its existence, the society has printed and published 315,600 copies of the Holy Scriptures; has now in the press 38,000 copies, and has undertaken to print 57,500; making a total of 411,100: and if to these be added 87,000 copies printed by the Auxiliaries, the grand total is 498,100 copies, in *twenty-six* different languages and dialects.

The total receipts of the society during the seven years have amounted to 1,747,862 rubles 74 copecks; and the total expenditure to 1,712,043 rubles 81 copecks.

When we contrast results such as these with the state of Russia in the year 1812, when, "according to the most authentic sources of information, it appeared that during 234 years, since Bibles were first printed in Russia, no more than *twenty-two* editions of the Slavonian Bible have appeared, consisting, in all, of scarcely more than *sixty thousand* copies!"* and when we reflect that these were the only source of supply for forty millions of people, during so many ages, we are constrained to adopt the language, "*What hath* GOD *wrought!*" and to acknowledge with the Committee of the Russian Bible Society, in their Seventh Annual Report, that "the rapid progress of the Bible cause, and the invisible power by which it is animated, are almost incredible. But although the first be evident to our bodily senses, yet the second must be inconceivable by all who are not penetrated, to the depth of their souls, by the power and Spirit of the Word of GOD!"

7. The AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY was established on the 8th of May 1816, at a meeting of Delegates from different Bible Societies. This Convention having first resolved unanimously, "That it is expedient to establish, without delay, a general Bible Institution, for the circulation of the Holy Scriptures without note or comment," proceeded to appoint a Committee, consisting of eleven members, to prepare the

* First Annual Report of the Moscow Auxiliary Society.

plan of a Constitution for the said Society, and an address to the public on the nature and objects thereof. The Convention then adjourned for three days; and, at its second sitting, their Committee laid before them the draft of a Constitution, which, having been read first in the whole, and afterwards by paragraphs, and carefully considered, was unanimously adopted. The Committee reported also an Address to the Public, which, in like manner, was unanimously approved.

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I. This society shall be known by the name of "The AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY;" of which the sole object shall be, to encourage a wider circulation of the Holy Scriptures without note or comment. The only copies in the English language to be circulated by the society shall be of the version now in common use.

ART. II. This society shall add its endeavours to those employed by other societies for circulating the Scriptures throughout the United States and their territories; and shall furnish them with stereotype plates, or such other assistance as circumstances may require. This society shall also, according to its ability, extend its influence to other countries, whether Christian, Mahomedan, or Pagan.

ART. III. All Bible Societies shall be allowed to purchase, at cost, from this society, Bibles for distribution within their own districts. The members of all such Bible Societies as shall agree to place their surplus revenue, after supplying their own districts with Bibles, at the disposal of this society, shall be entitled to vote in all meetings of the society; and the officers of such societies shall be, *ex officio*, directors of this.

ART. IV. Each subscriber of three dollars annually shall be a member.

ART. V. Each subscriber of thirty dollars at one time shall be a member for life.

ART. VI. Each subscriber of fifteen dollars annually shall be a Director.

ART. VII. Each subscriber of one hundred and fifty dollars at one time, or who shall, by one additional payment, increase his original subscription to one hundred and fifty dollars, shall be a Director for life.

ART. VIII. Directors shall be entitled to attend and vote at all meetings of the Board of Managers.

ART. IX. A Board of Managers shall be appointed to conduct the business of the society, consisting of thirty-six laymen, of whom twenty-four shall reside in the city of New York or its vicinity. One fourth part of the whole number shall go out of office at the expiration of each year, but shall be re-eligible.

Every Minister of the Gospel, who is a member of the society, shall be entitled to meet and vote with the Board of Managers, and be possessed of the same powers as a Manager himself.

The Managers shall appoint all officers, and call special general meetings, and fill such vacancies as may occur, by death or otherwise, in their own Board.

ART. X. Each member of the society shall be entitled, under the direction of the Board of Managers, to purchase Bibles and Testaments at the society's prices, which shall be as low as possible.

ART. XI. The annual meetings of the society shall be held at New York or Philadelphia, at the option of the society, on the second Thursday of

May, in each year; when the Managers shall be chosen, the accounts presented, and the proceedings of the foregoing year reported.

ART. XII. The President, Vice-Presidents, Treasurer, and Secretaries, for the time being, shall be considered, *ex officio*, members of the Board of Managers.

ART. XIII. At the general meetings of the society, and the meetings of the Managers, the President, or in his absence the Vice-President first on the list then present, and in the absence of all the Vice-Presidents, such member as shall be appointed for that purpose shall preside at the meeting.

ART. XIV. The Managers shall meet on the first Thursday in each month, or oftener if necessary, at such place in the city of New-York as they shall from time to time adjourn to.

ART. XV. The Managers shall have the power of appointing such persons as have rendered essential services to the society, either members for life, or directors for life.

ART. XVI. The whole minutes of every meeting shall be signed by the chairman.

ART. XVII. No alteration shall be made to this Constitution, except by the society at an annual meeting, on the recommendation of the Board of Managers.

The following letter from the venerable President of this institution, announcing its establishment, is too important to be omitted:—

"*Burlington, New Jersey, May* 23, 1816.

"As President of the society, it is with more pleasure than can easily be expressed, that I officially execute the pleasing task of announcing to you the joyful event of our having, under the special agency of Divine Providence, after so great troubles and persevering efforts, succeeded in establishing, with a harmony and unanimity unparalleled in so large a body, 'An American Bible Society, of which the sole object shall be, to encourage a wider circulation of the Holy Scriptures without note or comment. The society shall add its endeavours to those employed by other societies, for circulating the Scriptures throughout the United States, and her territories, &c. The society shall also, according to its ability, extend its influence to other countries, whether Christian, Mahomedan, or Pagan.'

"The subscriptions are filling fast, both as to members and donations; and every thing wears the appearance of success. There was not a single dissenting voice in the convention, though formed from various denominations: they seemed all to be of one heart and one mind.

"The whole proceedings, in this business, from Wednesday the 8th inclusive, till Monday the 13th instant, clearly discovered the Divine agency; and even some from among those least expected, could not help crying out aloud, 'This is no other than the work of the Lord.' May GOD have all the glory!

"I have the honour to be, &c.

"ELIAS BOUDINOT, President of the American Bible Society."

The highly respectable writer of the above, having attained the object which has long lain near his heart, in the establishment of a National Bible Society, has contributed the noble donation of 10,000 dollars in aid of its funds, which may secure the perpetual distribution of 1000 Bibles annually.

That such an institution was *necessary*, and that 108 local independent Bible Societies, scattered through the American Union, had not the means of supplying the wants of the population, the following statement will sufficiently testify:—

"In 1814, it was estimated, that there were in Ohio 13,000 families destitute of the Scriptures; 12,000 in the territories of Indiana, Illinois, and Missouri; 5000 in the Mississippi territory; 8000 in Louisiania; 10,000 in Tennessee; and 30,000 in Kentucky!!"

To which is added, by another writer, that,

"So late as 1815, in many of the principal towns of the Western States and territories, there was not a Bible for sale." *

The introduction of the following extracts from the Address already referred to, requires no apology:—

"No spectacle can be so illustrious in itself, so touching to man, or so grateful to God, as a nation pouring forth its devotion, its talent, and its treasures, for that kingdom of the Saviour, which is righteousness and peace.

"If there be a single measure which can over-rule objection, subdue opposition, and command exertion, this is the measure. That all our voices, all our affections, all our hands, should be joined in the grand design of promoting 'peace on earth and good-will toward man'—that they should resist the advance of misery—should carry the light of instruction into the dominions of ignorance, and the balm of joy to the soul of anguish; and all this by diffusing the oracles of GOD—addresses to the understanding an argument which cannot be encountered, and to the heart an appeal which its holiest emotions rise up to second.

"Under such impressions, and with such views, fathers, brethren, fellow-citizens, the *American Bible Society* has been formed. Local feelings, party prejudices, sectarian jealousies, are excluded by its very nature. Its members are leagued in that, and in that alone, which calls up every hallowed, and puts down every unhallowed principle—the dissemination of the Scriptures, in the received versions where they exist, and in the most faithful, where they may be required. In such a work, whatever is dignified, kind, venerable, true, has ample scope: while sectarian littleness and rivalries can find no avenue of admission.

"*People of the United States*,—

"Have you ever been invited to an enterprise of such grandeur and glory? Do you not value the Holy Scriptures? Value them, as containing your sweetest hope; your most thrilling joy? Can you submit to the thought, that *you* should be torpid in your endeavours to disperse them, while the rest of Christendom is awake and alert? Shall *you* hang back, in heartless indifference, when Princes come down from their thrones, to bless the cottage of the poor with the Gospel of peace; and Imperial Sovereigns are gathering their fairest honours from spreading abroad the Oracles of the LORD your GOD? Is it possible that *you* should not see, in this state of human things, a mighty motion of Divine Providence? The most heavenly charity treads close upon the march of conflict and blood! The world is at peace! Scarcely has the soldier time to unbind his helmet, and to wipe away the sweat from his brow, ere the voice of mercy succeeds to the clarion of battle, and calls the nations from enmity to love! Crowned

* Owen's *History*, Vol. III. p. 233.

heads bow to the Head which is to wear 'many crowns;' and, for the first time since the promulgation of Christianity, appear to act in unison for the recognition of its gracious principles, as being fraught alike with happiness to man, and honour to GOD."

In America, as in Russia, the results of a NATIONAL Bible Institution have afforded the best evidence of its advantages. In their Third Annual Report, the Committee observe,—

"But three years are now elapsed since the American Bible Society was formed, and its success and the extent of its labours during this time have exceeded the expectations of its warmest friends."

At the end of the fourth year, they report,—

"It affords the managers unspeakable gratification, and will unite the hearts of their fellow-members of the Society in fervent thanksgiving to GOD, that, at the termination of their fourth year's labours, they have occasion for no unpleasant retrospect; that Christian love and fellowship have grown with mutual intercourse; and that conciliation and harmony have uniformly governed their measures. They have found an ample requital of all their exertions in those feelings of affection and attachment, which the principle of our association, and its simple but magnificent design, are so well calculated to foster and increase."

The total number of Auxiliary Societies, officially known and recognised, as reported at the Fourth Annual Meeting, held in New-York on the 11th of May, 1820, was, TWO HUNDRED AND SEVEN.

The total number of Bibles and Testaments, or parts of the latter in the Indian languages, printed for the society, or obtained for circulation, during the four years of its existence, was ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-ONE THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED AND FIFTY-TWO, in nine different languages; and several other editions of Bibles and Testaments had been put to press.

It should be distinctly stated, that Russia and America have *printing and binding establishments* connected with their respective Bible institutions; and that they possess many sets of stereotype plates, both for the whole Bible and for the Scriptures of the New Testament. The Board of Managers of the American Bible Society observe,—"The present printing establishment is sufficiently extensive to furnish an average amount of One Hundred Thousand Bibles and Testaments annually;" and, as they judiciously remark, "the comparative difference of expense in conducting an establishment on a large and on a contracted scale, in the purchase of materials, the cost of labour, and the superior execution of the work, warrant the belief that Bibles issued from the general depository of this society can be afforded at a much lower rate, in proportion to their quality, than from any other

source."* A mature consideration of this part of the subject by every National Bible Society, will probably induce a general adoption of the plan.

It has been already remarked, that the constitution of the American Bible Society approximates more nearly to the system of the Parent Institution, than that of any other national society. In no one respect is this more evident, than in the provision for exciting and extending an interest in the cause, by means of the auxiliary system. At an early period after their establishment, the Board of Managers appointed a "*Standing Committee*" of five of their members, under the denomination of the "AUXILIARY SOCIETY COMMITTEE," for the purpose of "devising and suggesting means to promote the establishment, and animate the exertions of Auxiliary Societies; with authority to depute persons to attend meetings for these objects, and to open a correspondence with intelligent and influential persons, in different places, with a view of gaining such information as might enable them successfully to prosecute the above-mentioned designs."

In connection with this important subject, the Board of Managers further observe,—

"To accomplish, in their wished-for and practicable extent, the great objects toward which the National Society should not cease to direct its aim, the multiplication of Auxiliaries is indispensable. It is through their agency, principally, that the Parent Society must expect those supplies of a continually exhausting treasury, that will enable it to enlarge the extent of its operations to the progressively increasing demand for the Bible. It is almost entirely through the discoveries made by such societies in their various districts, and their subsequent activity in the work of distribution, that the beneficent objects of this institution can be thoroughly effectuated, and the precious boon dispensed where it is most pressingly required. Under these impressions, the Managers sincerely hope, that the instrumentality of individuals as *Agents*, in promoting the views of the society in various parts of the United States, may not be lost sight of: and to facilitate the prosecution of so promising an expedient, the Committee charged with the subject have been engaged in diligent inquiries after suitable persons to enter upon that service." †

It may be proper to state, that the American Bible Society has three Secretaries, who are thus designated:—

Rev. J. Milnor, D. D. New York, for Foreign Correspondence.
Rev. S. S. Woodhull, New York, for Domestic Correspondence.
Mr. John Pintard, New York, Recording Secretary.

* Fourth Report of the American Bible Society.
† *Ibid.*

The titles and duties of the other officers, are similar to those already specified in reference to the British and Foreign Bible Society.

SECTION X.

NECESSITY AND ADVANTAGE OF CONTINUED AND INCREASED EXERTION, AS ARISING OUT OF THE SCARCITY OF THE SCRIPTURES, AND THE EFFECTS OF THEIR CIRCULATION.

1. THE distribution, by the society, of two millions and a half of Bibles and Testaments in the languages of the United Kingdom, while it furnishes a decided and irrefragable evidence of the necessity that existed for such an institution, has been urged as a reason for relaxing those efforts which have conferred such honour on our country, by exhibiting her to the universe as the Almoner of the MOST HIGH. Were the object of the society exclusively *British*, this argument might be admitted to have some weight; though the deficiency that still exists in various parts of Great Britain and Ireland, and which are daily becoming more evident by means of Bible Associations, will require the exertions of many years to supply. But it is in reference to the *Foreign* department that the claims on the society assume an importance, whose awful magnitude could scarcely be contemplated without dismay, were not the appeal directed to British liberality and Christian sympathy. Well has it been said,—"In other projects, though suggested by benevolence, and planned with ability, the success is uncertain, the operation partial, the benefit transient: but HERE WE ARE FELLOW-WORKERS WITH OMNIPOTENCE; WE LABOUR FOR THE WHOLE HUMAN RACE; WE SOW FOR ETERNITY." The argument referred to, if such it may be called, has been so ably refuted by an enlightened statesman in a neighbouring country, that it is only necessary to transcribe his words:—

"He who is acquainted with the Bible, who believes its doctrines, and wishes to apply them to himself, cannot hesitate to offer to others also the enjoyment of the same advantage; with him there cannot exist a moment's doubt of the part he ought to take. To believe in the Bible, and yet decline the propagation of it, would be acting in open contradiction to the spirit and very letter of the precepts of Christianity ... I am not unacquainted with the arguments of some of our opponents, who contend, that many nations are not yet ripe for the reception of the Bible; and that it would be necessary first to humanize them, and after that to make them Christians. But oh, how little do they understand the contents of that Holy Book, who do not find in it instruction for the temporal, as well as the religious conduct of

mankind! And does not the very spectacle exhibited by those formerly-uncultivated people, among whom Christianity is introduced, place in the clearest light the untenableness of such an opinion?

"It therefore behoves us, not to waver in the conviction, that to distribute the Scriptures, is not only a favour conferred, but a duty to be performed; and no opportunity ought to be lost, of impressing this upon others, and representing to them what responsibility they take upon themselves, not only by counteracting the measure, but even by merely withholding their aid." *

To this testimony in favour of the principle and object of the society, the author cannot deny himself the gratification of adding the following observations of his invaluable friend, the Rev. Robert Hall of Leicester:—

"In the prosecution of this design, our party is THE WORLD; the only distinction we contemplate, is between the disciples of revelation and the unhappy victims of superstition and idolatry: and as we propose to circulate the Bible alone, without notes or comments, truth only can be a gainer by the measure.—It is to be lamented, that Protestant nations have been too long inattentive to this object: we rejoice to find that they are now convinced of their error; and that, touched with commiseration for the unhappy condition of mankind, they are anxious to impart those riches which may be shared without being diminished, and communicated without being lost to the possessor. Such is the felicity of religion; such the unbounded liberality of its principles. Though we should be sorry to administer fuel to national vanity, we cannot conceal the satisfaction it gives us to reflect, that while the fairest portion of the globe has fallen a prey to that guilty and restless ambition which, by the inscrutable wisdom of Providence, is permitted for a time to '*take peace from the earth*,' this favoured country is employed in spreading the triumphs of truth, multiplying the means of instruction, and opening sources of consolation to an afflicted world." †

2. But if the obligations on the *Christian*, to use his most strenuous exertions to communicate the scriptures of truth to all mankind, be imperative, he will find, in contemplating the state of the world, that this duty demands his active and persevering attention. The following extracts are selected with a view to bring the subject more immediately before him, in as brief a manner as is consistent with the nature of this work, yet so as to exhibit the wants of different nations, and the desire of many to possess the inestimable gift.

* Speech of the Right Honourable Mr. Roell, Minister of the Interior, and President of the Netherlands' Bible Society.—See Appendix to the Fourteenth Report of the British and Foreign Bible Society, p. 218 et seq.

† Address of the Leicester Auxiliary Bible Society, 1809.

EUROPE.

ICELAND.—In addition to the particulars relative to the inhabitants of this country, stated in Section VII. it is observed,—

"They have a bishop, 305 parish churches, and between 150 and 200 clergymen. The Bible, and particularly the New Testament, is read before the family, in every place where this precious book can be had. It is very lamentable, however, that it is not now to be obtained, even for money. When it happens to appear at an auction, it sells at an enormous price.—Never will Iceland forget her dear Stistrup, who, at his own expense, bought, and sent to this place, a great number of Bibles and New Testaments, to be given away gratis. This has now ceased, however, for the space of sixty years and upwards; and the most of these Bibles are now worn out. I remember frequently to have heard the best farmers in the parish warmly contending which of them should have the loan of the Bible, which was sent to their parish, for themselves and children. The printing-press in the island is no longer in order; we therefore cannot do any thing to supply this want; and the common people in Iceland will within ten years be entirely deprived of this blessed book, which is so dear and precious to them."—*Third Annual Report, Appendix, No.* VII.

"In the east of the island," says Dr. Henderson, "I fell in with a clergyman, who has been seeking in vain to obtain a Bible for the long period of *seventeen* years! His joy on my arrival was inexpressible. I passed also through a parish, lately, in which there are only *two* Bibles; and another, considerably more populous, in which there *are none at all.* In general, there are not above five or six in any parish which I have visited, except such as contain between 300 and 400 souls; and in them there are not more than ten or twelve copies. For the accuracy of these statements I have the best vouchers—the Registers of Souls, which every clergyman in Iceland is obliged to keep; in which, beside other particulars relative to his parishioners, he records what books are possessed by each family." *

GERMANY.—"Every day's experience proves to us that the fields are white for the harvest. The poor, and especially the Catholics, come in crowds for Testaments; others write the most pathetic letters; one of which, from a shepherd, I inclose.—

"*Letter from a Shepherd at Wertheim.*

"'Reverend Sir—As I am a lover of religious books, and have heard a great deal of your Society, I am sure you will not refuse to give the Catholic Old Testament to a poor shepherd who cannot hear the Word of GOD. I have got the New Testament from the Rev. Pastor Müller, in Wertheim; but neither do I find there the Psalms of David, nor the history of the Patriarchs, Jacob, Moses, and David, who were all shepherds. All this I wish to read, and to follow the example of those great men. I therefore request your Society to send this book to a poor shepherd who is day and night with his flock. The blessing of GOD will be with you, if you give these books to poor Christians who can hardly earn a bit of dry

* See "Iceland; or the Journal of a Residence in that Island, in the Years 1814, 1815, &c. by E. Henderson, Doctor in Philosophy;" a work of peculiar interest and merit.

bread. This holy book is not much seen among us Catholics: formerly we were not allowed to read it; but now we may, and ought to do so. Have the goodness to let me have this book of life. When I read it, in my solitude, I shall find in it many things which will be profitable to me and my children.' "—*Sixteenth Report, Appendix, p. 97 et seq.*

"The country clergymen cannot find words adequately descriptive of the thirst which is felt by numbers of people for this sacred gift, or of the joyful hope with which they anticipate it."—*Ibid. Appendix, p.* 109.

"Inclosed, you will receive documents which will prove that I have observed with concern the great want of the Scriptures in several parts of Protestant Hessen, and gladly embraced every opportunity of supplying them. I succeeded in procuring a number of Bibles from Basle, of the Protestant version; but they scarcely sufficed to satisfy the wants of the poor children in this city: in the country, the deficiency is still greater: of this I have personally convinced myself in several neighbouring villages, in which the schoolmasters assured me, that in some, which contained no less than sixty families, there were scarcely eighteen Bibles, most of which were sadly torn. Many of the scholars had no Bibles, and their parents were too poor to pay a rix-dollar (between three and four shillings) for one. Having made a present of the New Testament to children as well as to adults, both in town and country, I am importuned with petitions for the whole Bible; and really, sometimes my heart bleeds to observe the hunger and thirst after the bread and water of life, without my being able to satisfy it.

"You will observe that the Protestant superintendant, Justi, feels truly desirous to distribute Bibles in the many schools under his inspection. Here, my brethren, the soil is prepared for the reception of the seed: the hearts of thousands appear open to the instruction and consolation which the perusal of the sacred writings is calculated to convey. Oh that I might succeed in obtaining some considerable assistance towards the distribution of Protestant Bibles in the schools! Thousands of copies are wanted. I know my request is a large one; but still larger is GOD's mercy. I have just sent sixty-eight copies of my Testament to poor people who have lost nearly their all by the calamities of the war."—*Letter from Prof. Van Ess. Eleventh Report of Brit. and For. Bible Society, Appendix, No.* XIV.

PRUSSIAN STATES.—In August 1816, Professor Van Ess writes—"I have laid, with frankness, before the King of Prussia, the following view, by no means exaggerated, of the great want of Bibles among the Catholics in his States:—

"1. There are many, very many Catholic *priests*, who very probably have not a whole Bible in their possession, either in Latin or German, and do not even possess a German New Testament.

"2. Among *schoolmasters*, hardly one in 500 has a German Bible, and hardly one in 200 possesses a New Testament.

"3. Among *laymen*, scarcely one in 1000 is in possession of the New Testament, much less of a whole Bible."—*Thirteenth Report, Appendix, p.* 220.

ALSACE.—"Again I write to you, knocking as it were at the door of your heart, in behalf of the poor inhabitants of Alsace; and shall not desist until I am heard. Satisfy, I beseech you, the desire of the poor people, as well as that of the poor clergy, who indeed want help to answer the demands made on them. How did the clergymen stretch out their hands, when I distributed the first thirty copies of the New Testament! how gratefully did they press them to their bosom, with the most earnest solicitation to

Alsace.—Great scarcity of Bibles in Sweden and Finland.

receive more! I will most cheerfully charge myself with the delightful employ of distribution.

"To-day, several men and women came to me, desiring French New Testaments; but Mr. Spittler informed me that only a few copies were left. I thank you already, beforehand, for every gift of love; and refer you to HIM of whom the Scriptures testify, that He himself will be our shield and exceeding great reward."—*Letter from a Swiss Catholic Clergyman to Rev. Dr. Steinkopff. Appendix, Twelfth Report.*

SWEDEN.—"For my own part, I who have the task of corresponding with the members of the Evangelical Society from one end of the kingdom to the other, on the subject of Bibles, must own to you, that I am ready to faint in the work, on account of the pressing demands. Letters that make my very heart ache come in from the ministers of places, where, to my own knowledge, poverty prevails in all its mournful shapes, asking for Bibles gratis. I am obliged to reply, 'Our fund is exhausted, we can do no more for you this year.'"—*Letter from the Secretary of the Stockholm Evangelical Society. Eleventh Report, No.* XVI.

"Pastor Haygman, in Stockholm, has just published a most interesting pamphlet on the editions of the Swedish Scriptures which have been published from the time of the Reformation in Sweden. The result of his inquiries and calculations is, that, previously to the establishment of a Bible Society in Sweden, not one out of eighty among the poorer classes had a copy of the Scriptures. This is a most melancholy discovery. Not fewer than 400,000 families are destitute of the word of life in Sweden! Our work is not yet begun."—*Twelfth Report, Appendix, No.* V.

"The result of an investigation into the wants of the diocese of Carlstadt furnished a most melancholy picture, for not fewer than 19,770 families were found totally without a Bible: of these, 6460 cannot pay the full value of a copy, and 8600 are utterly unable to pay anything towards the purchase of one. Everywhere, however, a great hunger for the good Word of God was manifested; and unspeakable rejoicings were testified when these poor creatures were informed that there was a hope of their becoming possessed of the sacred treasure."—*Sixteenth Report, p.* lvi. *et seq.*

FINLAND.—"The archbishop came to Abo, in order to attend a meeting of the Committee of the Finnish Bible Society, which he had appointed. The Committee met at his lordship's house. The requisitions from all quarters are numerous, and the exertions of the society to meet them proportionally great. On a moderate calculation, not fewer than 50,000 are immediately required for gratuitous distribution, in order to satisfy the most urgent demands from the poor, who cannot pay for copies; but can read, and are anxious to have the words of eternal life in their possession. I assured them that the British and Foreign Bible Society would assist them to the utmost of their power, and, as far as their other engagements would permit, in furnishing their poor brethren with copies of the Scriptures.

"In the prison of Sweaborg fortress, I found about 500 prisoners entirely destitute of religious books of any kind. I immediately sent them a supply of Finnish Testaments, and promised to procure them copies in the Swedish language. The unhappy men pleaded earnestly to have books granted them, that they might edify themselves in their solitude; and I have no doubt they will make a good use of them."—*Sixteenth Report, Appendix, p.* 52.

HUNGARY.—"I never was, in all my life, received with such real delight as when I made my appearance at Presburg with the Bible in my hand. The

Bibles and Testaments which I could spare for them at that time were all sold the next day, with the exception of a few, which were furnished to the very poorest *gratuitously*. All who could, would pay. The Hungarians wish to establish a Bible Society, and an office of their own, for printing Bibles, both in the Hungarian language and in other similar dialects. They will begin a subscription among themselves, provided the Parent Society in London will assist and support them in such a measure. I gave them great hopes of this, having myself seen what the British and Foreign Bible Society has done, and is willing to do. Remember, and proclaim it as loud as you can, that *there are upwards of a million and a half of Protestants in Hungary*, and but a few Bibles among them!"—*Eighth Report, App. No.* II.

MOLDAVIA, WALLACHIA, &c.—"It appears that no more than two small editions of the Wallachian or Rumanic Bible have ever been printed; the one in 1688, and the other in 1714, in Bucharest, the capital of Wallachia. The last edition is said to have been carefully revised and printed by the metropolitan, Theodosius; but it is now so rare, that a copy of it is difficult to be obtained. The number of inhabitants in Wallachia is reckoned to be about 900,000, and in Moldavia 600,000: so that here we find in those two provinces, mostly belonging to Turkey, nearly one million and a half of people professing Christianity, and literally perishing for want of the bread of life."—*Twelfth Report, Appendix, p.* 76.

"Mr. Pinkerton is busy at present in making arrangements for printing the New Testament in the language of Moldavia and Wallachia, and has got all ready; but, alas! not a copy of the Scriptures, in this language, can be found here. It was reported that there was a copy at St. Petersburg, and he has been hunting after it, but hitherto in vain. A copy has been written for from Moldavia, and we fear we must wait till it can arrive. This is a great disappointment. We had lately a letter from a Russian priest, from the borders of the Ice Sea, begging most earnestly to have a Bible. He says, that there is not a Bible in all that tract of country. He is 800 versts from the market-town; but even *there* no Bible is to be found. Had there been no Bible Societies, this poor priest, like many millions more, must, in all probability, for ever have remained without a Bible."—*Twelfth Report, Appendix, No.* XI.

RUSSIA.—"The demand for Bibles is astonishing, and it is painful in the extreme not to be able to satisfy them: it makes one's heart ache, to see poor and rich coming, and earnestly requesting Bibles for money, and obliged to go away without the heavenly treasure. The poor Russians even fall down and kiss one's feet, to prevail on one to give them Bibles; and supposing that money can do every thing, they even offer the young men in our depository, drink-money, if they will let them have a Bible for payment. A Bible serves more than one: the poor day-labourers, who have been so happy as to get one among a number, spend their leisure in hearing one of their companions read to them the words of eternal life. The New Testament now frequently supplies the place of Novels on the toilettes of the formerly gay and fashionable. A poor Tartar, who lately got a copy of the Tartar New Testament as a present, kissed the back on receiving it, repeated the same ceremony on getting home with it, and now spends all his spare time in reading it, and finds much pleasure in so doing."

Eleventh Report, Appendix, No. XII.

"Prince Galitzin observes, 'Many millions of the inhabitants of Russia are in want of the word of life: many millions of our neighbours in Asia, who still *sit in darkness and in the shadow of death*, may, in time,

receive that Word from us, and *see a great light*. The Russian Bible Society has a great work to do, in furnishing all these nations and countries with the Holy Scriptures in their respective languages.' "

Twelfth Report, Appendix, p. 7.

" We have begun the distribution of the Finnish Testament in the Government of St. Petersburg. I expected the edition would have lasted us for several years; but the demand is so great, that we cannot get the Testaments bound quickly enough, and the whole edition is already nearly exhausted. When a quantity arrives in a village, all the inhabitants assemble, and can scarcely be restrained from carrying off the Testaments by force. They have been famishing for want of the word of life, and now they are almost insatiable. We have recently received 300 rubles, which have been subscribed by the Ingermanland Russian Regiment, besides 130 rubles from their colonel, for which they require one Russian and one Polish Bible. This gift is peculiarly valuable, as coming from Russian soldiers. The Roman-Catholic metropolitan has published a pastoral letter to his flock, recommending the reading of the Scriptures among them generally. This is an important document. Our Committee ordered it to be published in the Gazettes, that it might be as generally known as possible. We have received from his Imperial Majesty freedom to send all letters and packages, free of expense, by post; so that we can now send our Bibles to the remotest parts of the Russian empire with the greatest facility.—*Twelfth Report, Appendix, p. 8.*

" At Pleskoff, (says Dr. Pinkerton, in 1818,) the archbishop informed me, that in his diocese, which consists of 450 churches, *the greater part of the clergy are still without Bibles!*"—*Monthly Extracts, No.* XIV.

" The translation of the Scriptures into the Russ language—a measure which originated with the Emperor himself—is going forward. The metropolitans of St. Petersburg and Moscow, and the archbishop of Twer, superintend and revise the translation. Prelates, priests, and people, throughout the empire, are taking a most lively interest in this undertaking: such parts as are already printed have been sought for with almost incredible eagerness, and the completion of the work is looked forward to with the most ardent and anxious expectation."—*Sixteenth Report, p.* 62.

DENMARK.—" The demand for Bibles and Testaments on our Society is so much on the increase, that we shall have occasion for all the money which we can possibly command. Of the two last large editions we have, in the course of half a year, either sold at reduced prices, or gratuitously distributed, 7000 New Testaments, and about 4000 Bibles; so that another edition will soon be requisite. The stereotypes for the Danish New Testament are already ordered."—*Sixteenth Report, Appendix, p.* 128.

" There are, perhaps, few countries in which the cause of the Bible is become of more general concern than in our own. It is closely united with our ecclesiastical establishment; and independently of all the Deans, the Superintendant-General, with the greater part of the clergy, are either members of Bible Societies or promoters of them. Such conduct was reasonably to be expected from every evangelical clergyman, to whom, and to the congregation committed to his charge, the Bible ought to serve as the ground-work and rule of faith and practice."—*14th Report, App. No.* CII.

" The eagerness to possess the Bible is increasing throughout the kingdom, especially among the lower ranks of society, though many individuals

are prevented by the scarcity of money from purchasing that sacred book. Many copies have been sent to ministers, for distribution among the young after their confirmation, and to governors of prisons."—*16th Rep. App. No.* IX.

PORTUGAL.—"With respect to the Portuguese Testaments, it gives me great satisfaction to report the very quick circulation they have met with. All ranks of people in Lisbon have expressed the greatest regard and estimation for them; and so exceedingly solicitous have they been in their application to me for books, that I have much regretted witnessing their disappointment. May I hope, through your interference, that it will, in a short time, be in my power to comply with their earnest desire of becoming better acquainted with the Gospel."—*17th Rep. App. No.* XXXVII.

SWITZERLAND.—"Under the cheering auspices of Baron Wessenberg, Vicar-General of the Bishopric of Constance, I have distributed upwards of 3000 copies of the Ratisbon New Testament in that extensive diocese. A short time ago, I was enabled, by the Basle Bible Society, and the generosity of our Vicar-General, to give away 1000 copies in Catholic Switzerland, and to sell 2000 in Catholic Swabia, at the low rate of about threepence a copy, unbound. I cannot sufficiently express to you my joy at the good impressions made, and the moral benefits already produced, by the diffusion of this divine book. People of all ranks and classes of society anxiously desire it. But often my heart bleeds, when I perceive how many of the poor and of the servants are still destitute of the same, notwithstanding the most favourable disposition of our clergy. Night and day I thought on the best means of putting it into the hands of those poor people, who are called to become partakers of the kingdom of God; but scarcely a ray of hope hitherto appeared; the two last wars, and the heavy taxes, having dried up almost every resource in our parts, and multitudes been reduced to a state of the most wretched poverty. How am I moved with compassion for the multitude in the wilderness of this life! How do I behold them fainting for the New Testament; for this truly divine book might inspire them with new confidence, and courage to fight the good fight of faith."—*Twelfth Report: Appendix, p.* 158.

"In the midst of tribulation, when even the necessaries of life are wanting, the pious poor man looks to his Bible for consolation. It will not be displeasing to you, to read one instance of it. Having only a few copies of our folio Bible left, we reserved them for unforeseen occasions. A very worthy clergyman, in whose parish three families lost all their property by a conflagration, and among the rest their Bibles, writes, that a sum of money was placed in his hands, and, knowing the anxious desire of his unfortunate parishioners to replace the loss of their Bibles, he intended to apply this gift to the purchase of others: upon which we sent him, gratis, the last three we had. He wrote us in reply, as follows:—

"At the moment when I was occupied in opening the parcel containing your Christian present, the mother of one of the families that had been burnt out, came to me, to converse upon other business. I said to her, 'You see these Bibles; they are the gift of the Bible Society, destined for you and your fellow-sufferers.' Tears of joy started into the eyes of this good woman. 'Thank GOD,' she exclaimed, 'for giving me a Bible again! How often, since our misfortune, have I said, 'If our Bible had not been burnt, we could have derived comfort from that in our trouble: O that we could but get our Bible again! Now, we shall all rejoice.' She took the Bible from the table, while tears of gratitude and joy streamed from her eyes, and

fell upon it. On taking leave, she said, with warm emotion, 'May GOD reward those who have given us the Bible again! GOD reward you, dear minister, for having thus taken care of us!' The other two families also expressed their joy and gratitude, when they received their copies."

Thirteenth Report: Appendix, No. LXXXIX.

NORWAY.—"Before we landed in Norway, we had a proof of the want of the holy scriptures in that country, and the great eagerness of the people to become possessed of them; for the pilot who came on board, to conduct the vessel to Stavanger, having learnt, by some means or other, that we had some Bibles with us, earnestly entreated that he might be permitted to buy one. He lives in one of the little islands with which this harbour abounds; and stated, that a single copy, which they had among them, had almost excited a quarrel, so many wishing to possess it; and they were at last obliged to decide the matter by drawing lots; and much did he regret that the lot did not fall upon him. We gave the old man a copy, which he received with marks of the deepest gratitude."—*Fifteenth Report: Appendix, No.* XII.

POLAND, GALICIA, &c.—"There have appeared, at different times, five translations of the Bible in the Polish language. Of four of these versions no copy can be procured: of the fifth, printed by the Reformed Church in Dantzic, seven editions have been published. The first edition was, for the most part, burnt by Wonzyk, archbishop of Gnezen; and the Jesuits have always exerted themselves to buy up and destroy such copies of the other five editions as come in their way; so that it is concluded that of the six editions of the Protestant Bible, printed between 1632 and 1779, at least 3000 copies have been thus wilfully destroyed. The whole six editions, probably, did not amount to more than 7000 copies; so that if the copies which have been worn out by length of time were added to those which have been destroyed, it would be found that (with the exception of the seventh edition, printed in Berlin, at the expense of the British and Foreign Bible Society, and consisting of 8000 copies) the existing number of Bibles, among the 250,000 Protestants who speak the Polish language, must be very small. But, alas! how much smaller still is the number of copies which exist among the *Catholics* of Poland, will appear from the following facts. The only authorised version of the holy scriptures, in Polish, is that which was translated by Jacob Wuyck, approved by Clement VIII., and first published in Cracow, in 1599. The translation is considered, by competent judges, to be among the best European versions made from the Vulgate, and the language, though in some degree antiquated, is yet pure and classical. Such care, however, has been taken to keep even this authorised version of the holy scriptures from coming into the hands of the people, that it never was re-printed in Poland; and has undergone only two other editions out of the country, viz. at Breslau, in 1740, and 1771. Now the whole amount of copies, in these three editions of the authorised Polish Bible, is supposed not to have exceeded 3000. Thus there have been printed only about 3000 Bibles, in the space of 217 years, for upwards of 10,000,000 of Catholics, who speak the Polish language! Hence it is, that a copy is not to be obtained for money; and that you may search 100,000 families, in Galicia and Poland, and scarcely find one Bible."—*Thirteenth Report: Appendix, p.* 85 *et seq.*

"A copy of the authorised version of the Catholic Bible, in the Polish language, is not to be obtained for money, either in Poland or Galicia; and among the five millions of Servians, of whom two millions belong to Austria, the Bible is rarely to be found, *even in the hands of the clergy:* and

this applies still more strongly to the remaining three millions of Servians, under the dominion of the Turks. The Croatians, who consist of about 900,000 souls, have, to this day, no part of the Holy Scriptures in their language, except the Gospels for Sundays and Holy-days: and the Albanians have no portion whatever of the word of GOD at all, in any language which they understand. Much good is therefore to be expected from the dissemination of the Holy Scriptures, not only among these nations, but also among many other tribes without the borders of the empire, who, professing the Christian faith, under the dominion of the Turks, are unable, in their present circumstances, to obtain copies of the sacred writings, even for the purpose of supplying their churches and priests. Such, for instance, is the lamentable condition of most of the Wallachians, Moldavians, and Bulgarians; the former of whom speak one language, and possess a version of the Bible in their language, but which is so scarce, that it is not to be obtained for money. For that part of the nation connected with Russia, provision is now making; but for the millions of Wallachians and Moldavians under the Austrian Government, nothing has yet been done."—*13th Report: App. p.* 96.

FRANCE.—"An increasing demand has been manifested in France for the Catholic Scriptures: and so strongly is this felt, that various printers are now speculating in editions of that book, for which but a short time ago very few purchasers could be found. The Society for Elementary Education has introduced the New Testament into the Schools for mutual instruction; and several pious Catholics have evinced not a little industry in recommending it, and that with considerable success, to the poorer members of their communion."—*Sixteenth Report, p.* lxvi.

"The Committee have not always waited to furnish Bibles until they were asked for. One of their first acts has been, to offer this treasure of consolation and mercy to criminals in their chains. It has been received in some prisons, and in the hulks of Toulon and Rochefort, with a feeling of gratitude which promises a sincere repentance, and the design of a reformation.

"Many small tribes of Protestants, scattered over the surface of France, appeared worthy of the attention and care of the society. Some are without pastors, and without public worship. The Department de la Somme alone counts about six thousand individuals in this state of abandonment and religious privation: yet among these reformed Christians, so long forgotten, the faith of their fathers has been preserved in all its purity. For want of sacred books, of which violence had deprived their obscure families,—and from replacing of which, either fear or poverty had prevented them,—oral traditions have transmitted from generation to generation the most interesting narratives, the most important lessons, and the holiest precepts of the Bible. Passing from the father to the children, the most fervent prayers and hymns, the most proper to nourish faith and hope, have never ceased to resound in their cottages, and the paternal benediction has stood in place of that of the minister of the LORD. When at length the written Word of GOD returned to the bosom of these insulated families, what thanksgivings have been offered up for this unexpected blessing of Providence!"

Sixteenth Report, Appendix, pp. 71, 72.

"The demands for Bibles and New Testaments multiply to such a degree, that it is not possible for the binder to keep pace with them.

"The editions of Paris are proceeding so rapidly, that almost all my time is absorbed in correcting proofs."—*Ibid. p.* 73.

"On all sides I am besieged for Bibles; and I shall feel most grateful to

the Committee of the Bible Society if they will place at my disposal a certain number of copies of different editions printing in France.

"We hope soon to be able to satisfy the already numerous demands which are made on us by the Consistories of our churches for copies of the holy scriptures, at which we are at work. We desire with all our hearts to have them quickly distributed; and as the greatest number of families are unprovided, we think that our wishes will be easily satisfied.

"You will see by the sheet which I transmit, that we invite all the friends of the religion of Christ to make generous and pious sacrifices, to enable us to spread the sacred books among the most indigent families who would make a good use of them; and by the means of schools lately established, we doubt not that all will soon make the study of the word of God their happiest and most consolatory occupation."—*Ibid. p.* 74 *et seq.*

Spain.—"Even Spanish New Testaments have been solicited from your Committee: and they cannot but cherish a hope that they may find in the result of the events which are now taking place, an opening for communicating to the inhabitants of Old and New Spain that sacred book which affords, equally, instruction for the life that now is, and for that which is to come."
Ibid. lxvii.

Netherlands.—"The Rev. Mr. Winkel, at Antwerp, has made a very good use of the New Testament of De Sacy, of which copies had been forwarded to him. Some persons have cheerfully purchased it at double its value. There were many opportunities in that place for usefulness, especially among the French shipwrights, whose number is great; but, in general, the Bible was there, as in other parts of that country, an unknown book. A foreign merchant, who had settled at Antwerp, had made fruitless inquiries in all the booksellers' shops for a copy; and the opposition against the dissemination of the Holy Scriptures among Roman Catholics, arises not merely from the servile followers of human authority, but, in a greater measure, from the promoters of infidelity, and the enemies of Christianity." *Ibid. App. p.* 76.

ASIA.

Ceylon.—"The Cingalese Scriptures are become so very scarce, that to the bulk of the native Christians (amounting to about 200,000) they may be said to be in fact unknown."—*Eleventh Report: Appendix, No.* vii.

"In several parts of the island, the Scriptures, both in the Tamul and Cingalese dialects, have been sought for with great avidity: copies of the latter have been eagerly received by the intelligent among the Cingalese, and even by several of the Bhuddist priesthood, who have of late, in some places, been roused to an uncommon degree of inquiry on the subject of the Christian scriptures. This disposition has been greatly confirmed by the examples of certain natives of high rank and superior information, who, under the influence of divine grace, have been brought, chiefly through reading the Scriptures, to renounce their idolatry, and make a public profession of the Christian faith. The influence of these events has been widely propagated; and not only the superstitious Bhuddists, but the haughty Mahomedans, have begun to manifest an inclination to receive instruction themselves, and to permit their children to partake of the benefit of an improved education."—*Fourteenth Report, p.* 69.

Java.—"Of the Arabic Bibles and Testaments sent to Java, a very considerable number have been sold: some of the Arabian merchants and sheiks

are described as sitting in company whole nights together, reading them with the greatest eagerness and attention.

"One merchant actually delayed his departure from Batavia for many days, in order to read a Bible, which he had received from Mr. Supper, with tranquillity and reflection. He promised to recommend it to his countrymen, and implored a thousand blessings on the Bible."—*Twelfth Rep. p.* 44.

AMBOYNA, &c.—"The want of the Scriptures at Amboyna may be painfully inferred, from the fact of a Malay Bible having, in November 1816, fetched, at a public sale, forty-six Spanish dollars, upwards of 10*l.* sterling."
Fourteenth Report, p. 44.

"The Rev. Joseph Kam, minister of the Dutch Church at Amboyna, states the urgent need of a large supply of the holy scriptures for upwards of 20,000 native Christians, 'among whom the precious Word of GOD is very scarce.' He adds, that he writes 'with a broken heart,' from his inability to furnish a single copy of the holy scriptures, so much wanted by his 'dear people.'"—*Ibid. Appendix, No.* v.

"The Committee of the Calcutta Auxiliary Bible Society having placed 3000 Malay Testaments at the disposal of W. B. Martin, Esq., for the supply of the native Christians of Amboyna, the following is his statement relative to the distribution.—It had been his intention to limit the distribution to persons selected for their respectability, and presumed desire to profit by the gift; and his lists were made out accordingly: 'But,' says Mr. Martin, 'this intention I was afterwards compelled to relinquish; as I found it impossible to confine the distribution within the narrow limits which a rigorous adherence to it would have prescribed: for so great was the eagerness pervading the community, to reap the benefit of a liberality which they had not before experienced, and of which they would not expect soon to witness the recurrence, that, on the day appointed for the distribution, instead of the comparatively small and select number of individuals designated by the lists, the church was crowded by a multitude of people of both sexes, and of all ages, imploring, with an earnestness of supplication which could not be resisted, the unreserved communication to them all, of an advantage which all appreciated, and all had been prepared, and were qualified to enjoy.'"—*Fifteenth Report, p.* lxxiv.

"The Rev. Joseph Kam, referred to in one of the preceding extracts, thus writes under date of the 14th of January, 1819:—

"'Besides the Negeries in the Celebes, I found, on my journey to the Sanguir Islands, upwards of 10,000 native Christians, among whom I did not meet with more than two complete copies of the Bible, and a few New Testaments.

"'When I lately arrived at a large Negery (or village), the name of which is *Lileboi*, north-west from Amboyna, upwards of 800 persons, in order to convince me of the reality of their faith in the only true and living GOD, brought all their idols before me, and acknowledged their foolishness. I advised them to pack them all up in a large box (into which they formerly used to be put for their night's rest), and to put a heavy load of stones upon them, and to drown them all in the depth of the sea, in my presence. They all agreed to follow my advice; a boat was made ready for the purpose; and with a great shout, they were carried out of the Negery, and launched into the bosom of the deep. After this business was over, we sang the four first verses of the 136th Psalm.

"'This is the fruit of preaching the gospel of CHRIST, and of the labours of your society.'"—*Sixteenth Report: Appendix, p.* 196-7.

India.—Grateful reception of Bibles by the Natives, and by Roman Catholics.

PENANG.—"In Penang, Mr. Milne estimates the number of Chinese settlers at 8000; and he observes, that in the course of his distribution, he did not meet with one who did not thankfully receive a New Testament from his hands."—*Fourteenth Report, p.* lxxiv.

MALACCA.—"Mr. Milne has found many openings for putting the Chinese Scriptures into circulation. By the communication which it maintains with those places in the archipelago where the Chinese reside; with various parts of Cochin-China and Siam, where multitudes of Chinese are settled; and even with three provinces of China itself; opportunities occur, of which Mr. Milne has diligently availed himself, and by a due use of which, much good, it is hoped, may hereafter be accomplished."—*Ibid. p.* 74-5.

INDIA.—"There is no part of the world which offers a wider scope for the operations of the British and Foreign Bible Society than Hindostan. The Christians dispersed over that vast country, including Ceylon, are calculated at nearly a million, using various dialects; and few among this number have had the happiness to possess the sacred scriptures. Many of the descendants of the ancient Christians, it may be confidently affirmed, have, from the want of these precious records, relapsed into idolatry and superstition; and many who now profess Christianity are, from the same deprivation, Christians merely in name.

"The Hindoos and Mahomedans subject to the British authority may be estimated at seventy millions; of the remainder, no calculation can be made. These observations cannot but suggest the most forcible motives for the exertions of the British and Foreign Bible Society, both for supplying the wants of the Christians of India, and for displaying the records of divine truth to the natives who are ignorant of it."—*Eighth Report, p.* 10 *et seq.*

"Sandappen, a schoolmaster, in his address for a New Testament, says—'Reverend Father, have mercy upon me. I am, amongst so many craving beggars for the holy scriptures, the chief craving beggar. The bounty of the bestowers of this treasure is so great, I understand, that even this book is read in rice-markets and salt-markets.'"

Ninth Report: Appendix, p. 23.

"As to the disposition of the natives themselves of the best caste towards the Bible, take the following among many other no less striking evidences. A Nayr, of Travancore, even reproached one of our Zillah judges on the coast, for not giving them our Scriptures. The judge had been reading to him some passages from the Malayalim Gospel; when, on his stopping, the man, full of admiration of its divine sentiments, rather abruptly addressed him, 'What, sir, and are these indeed your shasters? Why, why have you not given them to us? We have not kept back ours from you; why have not you given us yours?' I could give you affecting instances of lively gratitude with which many have received the Tamul Scriptures, and the veneration they have expressed by word and action."—*Letter from the Rev. M. Thomson, Madras.—Eleventh Report: Appendix, p.* 26.

"At Nag-poora, the capital of the Mahratta dominions, a gentleman, friendly to the Scriptures, gave a copy of the New Testament to a Brahmin, a man of high estimation. He received and read it; but discovered no peculiar regard to the Gospel, till about a fortnight before his death, when he openly declared, that he gave up all hope in his own religion, and trusted only in the LORD JESUS CHRIST, who gave his life a ransom for sinners. His astonished family expostulated with him, and even manifested resentment;

but all in vain: the dying man had obtained a view of the Friend of Sinners, and he appeared to cleave to him to his last moments."—*Ibid. App. p.* 31.

"The expectation held out by the Committee (of the Bombay Auxiliary Bible Society) in the First Report, of distributing the Scriptures in Portuguese to the native Christians of that church, has been realized with great success; and they have not only dispersed a considerable number on the islands of Bombay and Salsette, but have forwarded no less than 550 to Goa, at the particular request of the British Envoy, who describes the natives, and even the priests, as coming in crowds to receive them."

Thirteenth Report: Appendix, No. II.

"A very intelligent and truly Christian native, Appavoo, having been employed by the learned and industrious Colonel Mackenzie to collect antiquities for him, in aid of a great work in which he is engaged, undertook to distribute some Tamul New Testaments in the course of his journey. Among the happy results with which this procedure of Appavoo has been already attended, the deposed Rajah of Travancore has been so impressed with the Bible, that he has directed a chapter to be read to him daily; and the high-priest of the Jainas has desired a visit from the Rev. Mr. Rhenius, who sent him the Tamul Bible, to explain the Gospel more perfectly to him and his people. Under the impression made by these and other interesting circumstances, the Christian native writes:—

"'While we have time, let us sow the good seed of the Gospel; the GOD of heaven will shower on it his Holy Spirit, that it may bring forth good fruits:'—and he adds, in a strain of interesting simplicity; 'In every age there have arisen some alterations in their superstition. Inquiry is made into their own Vedam, to find out the good way: I am sure, very soon, GOD ALMIGHTY will enlarge his kingdom; and the venerable benefactors who exert themselves in this desirable cause, will be rewarded a thousand fold.'"—*Fourteenth Report, p.* lxv. *et seq.*

"A society has been established at Madras, called the Tamul Bible Association. Under the presidency of the Rev. Mr. Rhenius (of the Church Missionary Society), this little groupe of native Christians held its first anniversary on the 26th of July 1818, at which not fewer than eight native converts delivered their simple addresses. Of these, one was expressed in the following terms:—'I am glad that a society like this has been established. By this means the word of GOD will be given to the poor; yea, will be made known to all. This word of GOD is a cleanser of the heart: I wish that all may receive it.'"—*Sixteenth Report, p.* 73.

CHINA.—That a translation of the entire Bible into the language of this immense empire—supposed to contain one-fourth of the whole human race—is at length completed, must be a source of gratitude and joy to every sincere believer in divine revelation. Of the importance of this work, and the good effects of the partial distribution already commenced, the following extracts will testify:—

"The intelligence from Java respecting the acceptance of the Chinese New Testament by the Chinese settled in that island, is highly encouraging and interesting. It appears that many of them not only read the New Testament, but are anxious to obtain explanations of passages which they do not understand. 'These Chinese,' Mr. Supper (Secretary of the Java Bible Society) adds, 'have already turned their idols out of their houses, and are desirous of becoming Christians.' One of the most opulent of the

Persia.—The Scriptures received with avidity, and read with attention.

Chinese in Java observed: 'I have read Mr. Morrison's New Testament with pleasure; it is very fine; and it would be well if every one led such a life as Jesus Christ has taught him to lead.' This introduced a conversation, the result of which was, 'that the Chinese, on his return to his home, tore all the painted images from the wall, and threw them into the fire.' He has never since frequented the Chinese temples."—*Thirteenth Report, p.* lxxi.

"By the good hand of GOD," says the Rev. Mr. Milne, "and the liberal aid of your excellent society, we have been enabled to send the sacred volume to various parts of China, and to almost every place where any considerable number of Chinese are settled: from Penang, through the Malay Archipelago, to the Moluccas and Celebes, on the one hand; and from Kiddah, round the Peninsula, through the Gulph of Siam, and along the coast of Cochin-China, on the other.

"Such beginnings, at least, are auspicious; and they encourage a hope that they may be the precursors of Scriptural light to the many millions of China, to whom the word of GOD is utterly unknown."

Fifteenth Report, p. lxxxi.

PERSIA.—One of the last acts of the indefatigable and lamented Henry Martyn, was his translation of the New Testament into the Persian language. On this version he had bestowed the greatest pains, to render it perfect; and, agreeably to his wishes, a copy of the manuscript was presented by his friend Sir Gore Ousely, Bart. to the Shah, or king, of Persia, whose approval of the performance, as signified in the following extract of his letter to Sir Gore, then Ambassador Extraordinary from Great Britain to his Court, is not the least remarkable instance of those providential openings so frequently recorded in the History of the Bible Society:—

"In truth, through the learned and unremitted exertions of the Rev. Henry Martyn, it has been translated in a style most befitting sacred books; that is, in an easy and simple diction. Formerly, the Four Evangelists, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, were known in Persia; but now the whole of the New Testament is completed in a most excellent manner: and this circumstance has been an additional source of pleasure to our enlightened and august mind. Even the Four Evangelists, which were known in this country, had never been before explained in so clear and luminous a manner. We, therefore, have been particularly delighted with this copious and complete translation. If it please the most merciful GOD, we shall command the Select Servants, who are admitted to our presence, to read* to us the above-mentioned book from the beginning to the end, that we may, in the most minute manner, hear and comprehend its contents."

Eleventh Report: Appendix, No. LI.

* "I beg leave to remark, that the word 'Tilawat,' which the Translator has rendered 'read,' is an honorable signification of that act, almost exclusively applied to the perusing or reciting the Korân. The making use, therefore, of this term or expression, shews the degree of respect and estimation in which the Shah holds the New Testament."

Note by Sir Gore Ousely.

The Committee of the Russian Bible Society, with equal cordiality and promptitude, undertook the publication of 5000 copies of this version, which has found "a grateful acceptance, and a wide circulation, in Persia."

"The eagerness," observes Dr. Paterson, "with which the Persians receive, and the attention with which they read the New Testament, exceeds all expectation. The excellent Martyn, though dead, is now preaching the Gospel to this numerous people. We cannot supply them fast enough. In three days I sent off one thousand copies to Astrachan."
Seventeenth Report of the Church Missionary Society, p. 477.

GEORGIA, ARMENIA, &c.—In the year 1814, it appears by the information of the Georgian archbishop, Dositheos, "that the number of Christians belonging to the Græco-Georgian Church exceeded a million; that in Georgia Proper there were nearly 900 churches; and in Imeretta and Mingrelia, 1100; and that among these 2000 churches, not 200 Bibles were to be found. In fact, but one edition of the Georgian Bible had been printed, and that a folio. The Clergy were, for the most part, deplorably ignorant. Religion was more cultivated by the females than by the males, or even by the priests." *Owen's History, Vol.* III. *p.* 43.

"The Bible in the Armenian language is much wanted, not only for the Armenian Christians in the south of Russia, but also for those who live beyond the confines of the empire. Copies of the Scriptures in this important language have become so scarce, that it has been impossible for the society to procure one at any price."—*Ibid. Vol.* II. *p.* 424.

SYRIA, PALESTINE, &c.—The Rev. Henry Lindsay, Chaplain to the British Embassy at Constantinople, thus addresses the Committee in January, 1815:—

"Some Greek priests of Syria, by desire of the Patriarch of Jerusalem, who is at present at Constantinople, called upon me yesterday, with a view to procure some copies of the Arabic Bible, printed by the society, in consequence of his having seen the copy I presented to the Patriarch of Constantinople, and the short sketch of the society's proceedings which I got translated. I regret, however, I had none left in my possession. The priests informed me, that such is the want of the Bible in Arabic, throughout Syria, that only a few old copies are to be found, and these seldom entire: they therefore begged me to request from the society a speedy supply."—*Eleventh Report: Appendix, No.* LXXII.

This statement is confirmed by C. J. Rich, Esq. the East-India Company's Resident at Bagdad, who, after enumerating the various denominations of professing Christians in these extensive regions, observes:—

"Of all these Christians, the Armenians are the only ones who have copies of the Bible among them, and those are by far too few to be productive of general good: this is the more to be regretted, as even the poorest classes are fond of reading the Scriptures. The Bibles in Syriac and Chaldee are to be found only in manuscript in the churches; and indeed they would be of but small comparative use to the natives, the common language of the greater part of which is Arabic. In the church of the

Depository of Bibles and Testaments formed at Jerusalem.

Catholic Chaldean Patriarch of Diarbekir, I heard a lesson read from the Gospels in Turkish, from a translation by a native of Kerkouk, which, to the best of my knowledge, exists only in this manuscript. By far the greatest part, therefore, of the Oriental Christians are wholly without any copies of the Scriptures; with which they have no other acquaintance than what they acquire through the medium of their priests (who are too often lamentably ignorant), or from the detached portions which they hear in the churches, and which they are not often capable of understanding. It is, therefore, of the utmost importance to supply them with copies of the Bible in the languages with which they are most familiar."

Twelfth Report: Appendix, No. XLVII.

One of the latest Christian travellers in this most interesting region, is the Rev. James Connor (employed by the Church Missionary Society); from whose communications, dated in March and April 1820, the following extracts are taken:—

"The archbishop of Cyprus having given me an introductory letter to Procopius, the chief agent of the Patriarch of Jerusalem, I waited on him, at the Greek Convent, two or three days after my arrival. He received me in the most friendly manner. He expressed his warmest approbation of the plan and objects of the Bible Society; and acceded immediately to my proposal, of leaving a considerable portion of the Scriptures, which I had brought with me, in his hands, for sale or distribution among the pilgrims and others."

By a subsequent arrangement with this valuable agent, a Depository for the sale of Bibles and Testaments in different languages, during the Passover, has been established in the great square which fronts the Church of the Holy Sepulchre at Jerusalem. On this spot the pilgrims—amounting to between 3 and 4000—frequently assemble; and they will, by this important measure, be enabled in future to purchase, at the very gates of the Sepulchre, "*the place where the* LORD *lay*," and to carry home to their families and friends, those Scriptures which will tend progressively to inspire a purer and more exalted spirit of devotion. Thus we behold in our day the fulfilment of the prophetic declaration, "*The Law shall go forth of Zion, and the Word of the* LORD *from Jerusalem!*"

"The patriarch of Damascus received me," observes Mr. Connor, "in the most friendly manner. The system and operations of the Bible Society delighted him. He will encourage and promote, to the utmost of his power, the sale and distribution of the Scriptures throughout the patriarchate. As a proof of his earnestness in this cause, the next day he ordered a number of letters to be prepared and despatched to his archbishops and bishops, urging them to promote the objects of the Bible Society in their respective stations. As soon as the Scriptures arrive in Damascus, the patriarch will make it known to the people, by ordering it to be announced to them in the different churches.—I have conversed with many of the Catholic ecclesiastics on the Bible Society, and its labours of Christian charity, and never

have I heard one voice lifted up against it: all that they require is, that the edition be conformable to the authorised text. This text (I have several times made the inquiry) is UNIVERSALLY INTELLIGIBLE. All can understand it." *

This enterprising Christian traveller thus concludes his observations:—

"From this sketch of my proceedings in Syria, you will have seen that the channels are now opened for the introduction of the Scriptures into these parts, and for their general circulation.—By means of our friends in Jerusalem, Jaffa, Acre, Saide, Beirout, Damascus, Tripoli, Latichea, Scanderoon, and Aleppo, they will be offered for sale in every part of the country.—I have prepared the minds of very many for the operations of the Bible Society in these parts; and I think I may say with truth, that these operations will be hailed with gratitude."—*Missionary Register for Sept.* 1820.

The following communication, which has long been out of print, is too important to be omitted:—

Extract of a Letter from the Rev. H. Lindsay, Chaplain to the Embassy at Constantinople, relative to the present State of the SEVEN CHURCHES IN ASIA, *mentioned in* Rev. ii. *and* iii.

"*Constantinople, Jan.* 10, 1816.

"When I last wrote to you, I was on the point of setting out on a short excursion into Asia Minor. Travelling hastily, as I was constrained to do from the circumstances of my situation, the information I could procure was necessarily superficial and unsatisfactory: as, however, I distributed the few books of the society which I was able to carry with me, I think it necessary to give some account of the course I took. The regular intercourse of England with Smyrna, will enable you to procure as accurate intelligence of its present state as any I can pretend to offer.

"From the conversations I had with the Greek bishop and his clergy, as well as various well-informed individuals, I am led to suppose, that, if the population of Smyrna, be estimated at 140,000 inhabitants, there are from 15 to 20,000 Greeks, 6000 Armenians, 5000 Catholics, 140 Protestants, and 11,000 Jews.

"After Smyrna, the first place I visited was Ephesus, or rather (as the site is not quite the same) Aiasalick, which consists of about fifteen poor cottages. I found there but three Christians, two brothers who keep a small shop, and a gardener. They are all three Greeks, and their ignorance is lamentable indeed. In that place, which was blessed so long with an Apostle's labours and those of his zealous assistants, are Christians who have not so much as heard of that apostle, or seem only to recognise the name of Paul as one in the calendar of their saints. One of them I found able to

* The edition of the Arabic Scriptures to which Mr. Connor alludes, as under preparation by the British and Foreign Bible Society, is precisely that which he states as exclusively acceptable among the Christians of Syria. It is a reprint of the Propaganda edition; on the correction of which, Professor Macbride, of Oxford, and Professor Lee, of Cambridge, are bestowing unwearied attention. The New Testament is just completed. On the communication to the Committee of the despatches from Mr. Connor, they directed 1000 Copies of the New Testament to be forwarded without delay to the Mediterranean; and these will be followed by ample supplies.

read a little, and left with him the New Testament in ancient and modern Greek, which he expressed a strong desire to read; and promised me he would not only study it himself, but lend it to his friends in the neighbouring villages. My next object was to see Laodicea: in the road to this, is Guzel-hiser, a large town, with one church, and about 700 Christians.

"In conversing with the priests here, I found them so little acquainted with the Bible, or even the New Testament, in an entire form, that they had no distinct knowledge of the books it contained, beyond the Four Gospels; but mentioned them indiscriminately, with various idle legends and lives of saints.

"I have sent thither three copies of the modern Greek Testament since my return. About three miles from Laodicea is Denizli, which has been styled, but I am inclined to think erroneously, the ancient Colosse: it is a considerable town, with about 400 Christians, Greeks, and Armenians, each of whom has a church. I regret, however, to say, that here also the most extravagant tales of miracles, and fabulous accounts of angels, saints, and relics, had so usurped the place of the Scriptures, as to render it very difficult to separate, in their minds, divine truths from human inventions. I felt, that here that unhappy time was come, when men should 'turn away their ears from the truth, and be turned unto fables.'

"I had with me some copies of the Gospels in ancient Greek, which I distributed here, as in some other places through which I had passed. Eski-hisar, close to which are the remains of ancient Laodicea, contains about fifty poor inhabitants; in which number are but two Christians, who live together in a small mill: unhappily, neither could read at all: the copy, therefore, of the New Testament which I intended for this Church, I left with that of Denizli, the offspring and poor remains of Laodicea and Colosse: the prayers of the mosque are the only prayers which are heard near the ruins of Laodicea, on which the threat seems to have been fully executed, in its utter rejection as a Church.

"I left it for Philadelphia, now Alah-shehr. It was gratifying to find at last some surviving fruits of early zeal: and here, at least, whatever may be lost of the *spirit* of Christianity, there is still the *form* of a Christian Church;—this has been kept from the hour of temptation, which came upon all the Christian world. There are here about 1000 Christians, chiefly Greeks, who, for the most part, speak only Turkish: there are twenty-five places of public worship, five of which are large, regular churches: to these there is a resident bishop, with twenty inferior clergy. A copy of the modern Greek Testament was received by the bishop with great thankfulness. I quitted Alah-shehr, deeply disappointed at the statement I received there of the Church of Sardis. I trusted that, in its utmost trials, it would not have been suffered to perish utterly; and I heard with surprise, that not a vestige of it remained.—With what satisfaction, then, did I find, on the plains of Sardis, a small Church establishment: the few Christians who dwell around modern Sart were anxious to settle there, and erect a church, as they were in the habit of meeting at each other's houses, for the exercise of religion: from this design they were prohibited by Kar Osman Oglu, the Turkish Governor of the district; and, in consequence, about five years ago, they built a church upon the plain, within view of ancient Sardis, and there they maintain a priest. The place has gradually risen into a little village, now called Tartar-keuy: thither the few Christians of Sart, who amount to seven, and those in its immediate vicinity, resort for public worship, and form together a congregation of about forty. There appears then still a remnant, 'a few names even in Sardis,' which have been preserved. I cannot repeat the expressions of gratitude with which they received a

copy of the New Testament, in a language with which they were familiar. Several crowded about the priest, to hear it on the spot; and I left them thus engaged. Ak-hisar, the ancient Thyatira, is said to contain about 30,000 inhabitants, of whom 3000 are Christians, all Greeks, except about 200 Armenians. There is, however, but one Greek church, and one Armenian. The superior of the Greek Church, to whom I presented the Romaic Testament, esteemed it so great a treasure, that he earnestly pressed me, if possible, to spare another, that one might be secured to the church, and free from accidents, while the other went round among the people, for their private reading. I have therefore, since my return hither, sent him four copies.

"The Church of Pergamos, in respect to numbers, may be said to flourish still in Bergamo. The town is less than Ak-hisar, but the number of Christians is about as great, the proportion of Armenians to Greeks nearly the same, and each nation also has one church. The bishop of the district, who occasionally resides there, was at that time absent; and I experienced, with deep regret, that the resident clergy were totally incapable of estimating the gift I intended them: I therefore delivered the Testament to the lay vicar of the bishop, at his urgent request, he having assured me that the bishop would highly prize so valuable an acquisition to the church: he seemed much pleased that the benighted state of his nation had excited the attention of strangers.

"Thus, Sir, I have left, at least one copy of the unadulterated word of GOD, at each of the Seven Asiatic Churches of the Apocalypse, and I trust they are not utterly thrown away: but, whoever may plant, it is GOD only who can give the increase; and, from his goodness, we may hope they will, in due time, bring forth fruit, 'some thirty, some sixty, and some a hundred fold!' Believe me, Sir, ever yours most truly,

"HENRY LINDSAY."

SIBERIA & TARTARY.—In reference to these extensive regions, it has been observed:—

"The zeal of Christians has been greatly stirred up; Jews have been awakened to a concern for studying the Christian Scriptures; and Mahomedans and Heathens been brought to desire and peruse, in their own tongues, the sacred oracles of truth and salvation. Among other circumstances illustrative of this statement, there is one fact, which, from its striking peculiarity, and the consequences with which it seems pregnant, deserves to be specially noticed.

"The tribe of *Burjats*, inhabiting a distant quarter of Siberia, having been particularly struck with some sheets, which they had received, of the Gospel of St. Matthew, in the Calmuc, despatched two of their native chiefs, persons of high family, and very intelligent and inquisitive, to St. Petersburg, in order to obtain a translation of the New Testament into their own, which is a kindred dialect. On this translation they are now occupied: and such was the almost immediate effect of what they expressively called 'the beautiful sayings of JESUS,' on the minds of these heathen inquirers, that they acknowledged, when they afterwards turned to pray to their idols as usual, they felt an internal disquietude, of which they never before had been conscious: and they requested to be more perfectly instructed in the nature of the Gospel. 'What a striking example,' exclaims his Excellency Mr. Papoff, 'of the life-giving influence of the word of GOD on the hearts of the simple; seeking after truth, though they be heathens!'"

Fourteenth Report, p. lviii. *et seq.*

The sequel of this remarkable occurrence is thus related:—

"Of the impression produced on the higher orders of the laity, many honorable instances might be produced. Few, however, exceed in interest that of the two Burjat nobles, who, having been effectually converted to the Christian faith by translating the Gospel of St. Matthew into the Mongolian dialect, addressed a letter to their prince, a heathen, and residing in the heart of Siberia; in which are, among others, the following sentiments:—

"By your kind endeavours we have been brought near the feet of our highly exalted monarch (the Emperor), and reached the city of St. Petersburg, where shines the brightness of the holy doctrine: for here we have seen and heard the most sacred words of the Most High and saving GOD.—That we ever should see and hear such things, we never before had an idea. The word of GOD being so very clear and intelligible, we cannot sufficiently admire it; and we feel that it is truth which may be relied on. This vehicle of a reasonable faith, this pearl of a devout heart, although existing eighteen hundred years upon earth, has hitherto not yet come to our Mongols and Burjats. According to our humble opinion, our highly exalted and gracious sovereign is a hand of GOD; and the Society of the Holy Book of Religion, called the Bible, a true apostle of JESUS CHRIST. When, by the grace of GOD, our people, as well as every individual who speaks the Mongolian language, shall forsake their own faith, and receive the doctrine of CHRIST,—when they shall walk in the narrow and saving way,—they will, under his light and easy yoke, adopt a good conversation and good manners: that faith is the work of GOD alone." *—*Owen's Hist. Vol.* III. *p.* 402 *et seq.*

The following extract will shew, that the desire to peruse the sacred volume extends to the lowest ranks of the people:—

From a Peasant in the Government of Tomsk, in Siberia: March 6, 1816.

"Among us also, in this distant region of Siberia, it is now known, that the pious Bible Society in Moscow bestows the word of GOD on the poor and needy, gratis. Such a gift I have seen in the village of Barn, in the possession of a poor ecclesiastic, who is thereby made happy, and reads his New Testament with joy. Dare I, an unworthy man, in poverty and tears, beg for a New Testament, gratis, also? Though I do not understand to read myself, yet my son can read, and hears the holy scriptures, when read in the church, with pleasure. He will read to me the Gospels and the Epistles; and there I shall also learn to know, how the LORD GOD took upon himself our flesh, came into this world, lived among sinners, instructed them, suffered and died for us, and gave to us the holy gospel, that all men might know the way of salvation. I intreat the pious Bible Society not to reject my petition, but to bestow on me the holy scriptures, to rejoice my soul, and my whole household!"—*Fourteenth Report: Appendix, p.* 85.

SOUTH-SEA ISLANDS.—"In the islands of the South Seas, particularly those of Otaheite, Huaheine, and Eimeo, in consequence of the extraordinary success with which the preaching of the Gospel has been recently attended, openings have been made of the most promising nature, for the

* It will gratify the friends of the Institution to learn, that the translation of the Gospels of St. Matthew and St. Luke have been completed and printed at Petersburg. One hundred copies of the version have been presented to the Parent Institution by the Russian Bible Society.

dissemination of the holy scriptures. Specimens of the Gospel of St. Luke, in the Taheitan language, have been received. Three thousand copies had been printed on paper furnished by your society, and nearly distributed, when the specimens were despatched from the island of Huaheine (to which the press had been removed from Eimeo); and the other Gospels, together with the Acts of the Apostles, were nearly ready to be printed. Of these, when completed, it was the wish of the Missionaries to print 10,000 copies; which number, considering the progress made by the natives in reading, and their urgent desire to possess the Scriptures, it was expected, would still not be sufficient to supply their wants. 'Multitudes,' say the Missionaries, 'can now read with ease; and their desire to teach others the word of GOD seems to grow with their own knowledge.'

"It is common to see those who have been taught to read, sitting in circles in the cooling shade, or in their own houses, teaching those who know not. Not content merely with what they learn at school, they frequently sit in circles till midnight, teaching each other. In some of the islands, where a Missionary has never resided, the natives can read and write; and many have known how to teach their neighbours, before their names were ever enrolled in the school-book."—*Sixteenth Report*, *p.* lxxx. *et seq.*

NEW SOUTH WALES.—An Auxiliary Society, under the patronage of Governor Macquarie, was established in this colony on the 7th of March, 1817. In announcing this memorable event, his Excellency observes, "The colonists stand greatly in need of Bibles, and will be most thankful to receive them on any terms."

In their First Annual Report, the Committee of this remarkable Institution state, that "more than one-third of the dwellings, and three-fifths of the inhabitants of Sydney, who can read, are without a Bible." Judicious measures were immediately adopted for supplying the most urgent cases; a *Branch Society* was established at Van Dieman's Land, under the presidency of the Lieutenant-Governor; and *three Bible Associations* have been subsequently formed, on a regular system, at Sydney, Parramatta, and Windsor. But such was the deplorable want of the holy scriptures in the colony, that the Committee, in their Annual Report for 1820, lament the destitute state of numerous families and individuals, while they express their laudable determination to adopt the best practicable means of distribution, "that, if possible, every person who is able to read, and desirous to possess, or at least every family or dwelling, may be furnished with a Bible or Testament."

The number of copies of the Scriptures received from the Parent Institution, to the date of the last Report, is 6328, amounting, at cost prices, to 1176*l.* 8*s.* 7*d.*; and the Auxiliary Society has, in return, remitted 690*l.* The peculiar nature of the claim thus urged on British benevolence cannot fail of being properly appreciated.

Bibles and Testaments sent to the Cape of Good Hope received with joy.

AFRICA.

Of this quarter of the globe, containing more than 150 millions of inhabitants, to which Europe generally, and Great Britain in particular, owe such a heavy debt of reparation, our information is comparatively scanty. The following extracts, however, afford a sufficient indication, that even here we have not "*laboured in vain*," nor "*spent our strength for nought*," while they incite to continued and more extensive exertion.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.—In the year 1810, a respectable correspondent thus addresses the Committee:—

"It is impossible for me to convey to you in adequate terms the sense of feeling and gratitude expressed by many individuals here, who value and know the importance of the holy scriptures, when they heard that a supply of Bibles had been sent for the use of the inhabitants of this colony. To do good to our fellow-creatures, and to know that it has been followed with beneficial effects, must be highly pleasing to every sensible mind:—the British and Foreign Bible Society have that satisfaction in a very superior degree; for the Bibles they sent, came to a needy, but not unthankful people. It is a fact, that, for some time past, not a single Dutch Bible could be got for money."—*Seventh Report: Appendix, No.* XV.

In reference to this first supply, the Secretary of the Moravian Missionary Society thus writes:—

"I have, before now, expressed to you the thanks of our Missionaries among the Hottentots, for your kindness towards them, and their congregations of Christian Hottentots."—"We are sure," they write, "that if the worthy members of that benevolent society had been present, to see the tears, and hear the humble and joyful expressions of thankfulness for this precious gift, and the prayers offered up for the blessing of GOD to rest upon those who had so kindly considered the spiritual wants of the most distant nations, they would have thought themselves well rewarded for their generosity to these poor people."—*Eighth Report: Appendix, No.* XL.

"The intelligence from the Rev. J. Read at Bethelsdorp, in South Africa, is also very gratifying. He mentions, that a Hottentot, named Sampson, who, though more than fifty years of age, had learned to read, upon seeing the Bibles sent for distribution, exclaimed, 'These are the weapons that will conquer Africa; they have conquered me.' The first purchaser of a Bible was a Hottentot, who, at the age of forty, had also learned to read. Fifty Bibles were presented, on the first day of distribution, to as many children who could read well. Mr. Read hopes, from the progress made in a few months, that there will soon be but few children of whom the same may not be said. He adds, that there are a vast number of adults who can read the Bible."—*Thirteenth Report, p.* lxv.

It appears by a letter from his Excellency Governor Donkin, dated Cape of Good Hope, August 31, 1820, and addressed to Lord Teignmouth, that a Bible Society was established in that colony on the 23d of August, at a meeting

held in the Government House, under the presidency of his Excellency; who observes:—

"A Committee has since been formed, which is now employed in putting into activity the necessary arrangements for the distribution of the holy scriptures throughout this colony.

"I took an opportunity of assuring the meeting, that, during the time I may administer this government, no effort shall be wanting on my part to promote the diffusion of Christianity throughout Southern Africa. I am persuaded that, independently of the paramount duty by which every Christian is bound to impart the light of the Gospel to those who are unacquainted with it, I shall be rendering an essential service to this colony, if I can lay the foundation of a system which shall introduce Christianity, and consequently civilization, amongst the surrounding tribes; and I hope the day is not very far off, when those who are now heathen savages shall be converted into civilized Christians."

Western Africa.—"The ready acceptance of some Arabic Bibles at Yongroo, in Western Africa, by the Mahomedans, encourages a hope that they may be more extensively circulated; and has produced an application from the Rev. G. Nylander for a further supply. He states, that the King of Bullam, to whom he presented a Bible in Arabic, recommended it to the first strangers who visited him; and that, in a visit which he made to the King, he saw about twenty Mahomedans, and an aged Mussulman-teacher in the midst of them, reading the Bible. He requested, and with great thankfulness accepted, a Bible from Mr. Nylander, saying, 'When I come home, I shall read this book to all my people.'"—*Eleventh Report*, *p.* xxxvi.

In the year 1813, a Missionary in the service of the Church Missionary Society, to whose care twelve copies of the Arabic Bible had been assigned,

"was unfortunately wrecked on the coast of Africa. A portion of the cargo redeemed from the waves, was sold to the natives; and of it, these Arabic Bibles formed a part. The Missionary made every effort in his power to re-purchase them, but without success. As much as £.8 was offered for a copy, but refused; the Mahomedan natives persisting in their resolution not to part with them on any terms."—*Owen's History*, *Vol.* I. *p.* 308.

Egypt.—Allusion has already been made to the visit of the lamented Burckhardt to this country. In his correspondence with the Malta Bible Society, he states, that

"the seamen, who are so very numerous at Alexandria, came so very often to him, that the Greek Testaments which he had dispersed would be only like so many drops thrown into the sea; so great was the demand for the word of God."

Only a few days after his arrival at Grand Caïro, he wrote thus to the Secretary:—

"My dear Friend, I have now nothing more to give these people: all my stock is expended. If I had with me twice or thrice as many copies of the Scriptures, I could have disposed of them without the smallest difficulty."

In one of the latest communications from this Christian traveller, he thus expresses himself:—

"On my journey, I was solicited everywhere for Bibles; and when I arrived at Caïro, I had nothing left but a few copies of the Scriptures, and the Ethiopic Psalters. This grieved me the more, as I was under the necessity of sending the applicants away empty; and my regret would have been still greater, had I not, in full reliance on the continued assistance of the Bible Society, been able to assure them, that I had the prospect of soon getting a fresh supply of copies. I ardently wish that the impatience of the poorer Copts, who are extremely desirous of possessing an Arabic Bible, might soon be removed."—*Fifteenth Report: Appendix, No.* XVIII.

In the summer of 1819, the Rev. William Jowett, one of the Secretaries of the Malta Bible Society, followed the track marked out by his self-devoted friend:—

"It was on my arrival at Esne," he observes, "that I first opened my small, but invaluable treasure. This is the last bishopric southward in Egypt. I waited on the bishop, and, having presented my letter from the patriarch, was very kindly received. I gave him a copy of the Arabic Bible, and begged him to recommend the sale of it among his people: the price I fixed was twenty piastres, equal to ten shillings English: it is quite necessary to reduce the price, the people are so poor, and the value of money so great in this country. But I soon found there was no need of soliciting this recommendation: the people, having seen the book, and witnessed the pleasure with which their bishop received his present, came immediately to buy, and I have no doubt that I could have soon disposed of my whole stock. A prudent consideration of the wants of the towns I meant to visit in my return, rendered it necessary that I should husband my poor resources. Besides the one which I had given, I could only spare three: it was really painful to see the eagerness with which one after another came to my boat, to ask whether I could not let them have one copy more; they came with various reasons or pretences, and were with difficulty persuaded that the number I had could only furnish a small supply at best to the other churches."

Proceeding further up the Nile, he stopped at Edfu, the last town where Christians were to be found. After describing their extreme misery and poverty, he justly remarks:—

"It is wonderful how, in such circumstances, even the profession of Christianity is kept up. These poor people, however, shew their attachment to their religion, by going some of them every week to Esne to attend their church. They set off on the Thursday night, and arrive there in time for vespers on Saturday evening, returning back on the Monday.—What a reproach to many in Christian countries, who live within a few minutes' walk from a place of worship and yet seldom attend!"

After remaining a few days at Thebes; passing the "mountains in which are excavated the tombs of the kings; and numerous relics of churches and convents, which prove how far Christianity once extended in these countries;" he observes:—

"I found it difficult to determine how to dispose of the one Arabic Bible which I had allotted to Luxor. It was not the best plan to give it to the

priest, for the priests in these parts are not the best informed part of the community; and besides, the book would in that case have been shut up in the church. Upon inquiry, I selected mâllem Jacob as the intended purchaser. These mâllems are in fact a kind of clerks to government, in all the principal cities and towns throughout Egypt. They receive the orders of the various governors, and collect the tribute, &c. from the Copts; consequently they are expert in reading and writing, and know every thing about their countrymen. I had sent word two days before to mâllem Jacob that I should sell him the book: when, therefore, I had crossed over to the east side of the river, I called upon him. Besides his own little child, he has two young nephews, whom he has adopted; their father being dead. He had announced the book beforehand to these lads. The younger, about twelve years of age, kept him continually in mind, with 'Father, the book is not come yet.' I heard both these boys read: the younger read me half a chapter very well; and the priest told me that at church he had chosen a particular seat, where he was used to sit and read by himself: I think the Bible, therefore, very fitly bestowed."

Of Kennee, a very considerable town, and the thoroughfare of perhaps ten thousand pilgrims a year to Mecca, he writes:—

"The Christians here are pretty numerous, and, comparatively speaking, in good circumstances; but they have neither church nor resident priest in the town: some neighbouring villages are their resort on Sundays for religious purposes. Here I found a very intelligent Copt, mâllem Bottros (Peter): he was surrounded by many of his nation, very respectable and well-behaved men. When he saw my Arabic Bible, he recognised the work, saying, that about two years ago he had bought a copy of a Jew in Caïro. Instead of twenty, with a promptitude very rare in these parts, he wished to give me fifty piastres for it; but this I refused. Young men who were about him began to draw out their money, begging that they might have a copy. On returning to my boat, I sent him two more copies: he sent me word back, that the people snatched them up so quick that he had not one left for himself, and begged me to spare him another. I was so much gratified by this ready disposition, and had observed in the very countenances of the bye-standers so much superior intelligence and good training, that early next morning I called upon him with two more copies; adding as a reason, that as this town was a grand thoroughfare of Mahomedan pilgrims, it was peculiarly desirable that the Christians should be confirmed in their faith by reading the Scripture abundantly."—*Sixteenth Report: Appendix, p.* 170 *et seq.*

Abyssinia, &c.—In reference to this country, M. Asselin de Cherville, French Chargé d'Affaires at Cairo, thus writes in November, 1814:—

"It is beyond a doubt, that an impression of the Scriptures in the Ethiopic, in a convenient form, must be very advantageous to so numerous and devout a people as the Abyssinians. Though several very different dialects are spoken in the countries subject to the dominion of the great Negus (or king), yet the learned, or Ethiopic, is the only one universally taught in his vast estates; since it is in this language that all the books employed for public instruction are composed: but these books, being in manuscript, are scarce, and consequently very dear: and, I repeat, if there exists a people on the earth to whom the object proposed by the Bible

Isle of France.—Manuscript of the Amharic Version of the Bible obtained.

Society can be eminently useful, it is, without doubt, the Abyssinians: for their first study is that of the Bible; their first spiritual want is the Gospel, which they read again and again constantly every day."

Twelfth Report: Appendix, No. XLVIII.

This opinion is confirmed by Henry Salt, Esq. British Consul-General in Egypt, who observes:—

"The Abyssinians, in general, are exceedingly attached to their religion, and to the Scriptures; but the unfortunate circumstances under which they have so long suffered, have led them astray into error."

Fourteenth Report: Appendix, No. LI.

The Rev. W. Jowett had rested but a little while from the fatigues of his first voyage to Egypt, when he felt it to be his duty to visit that country a second time; in order to resume, and, if practicable, to bring to a successful issue, the negociation for the purchase of the Amharic version of the Scriptures. In this great object he happily succeeded, and has ascertained, satisfactorily, that the manuscript answers the description of it—as a version, complete in all its parts, of the Scriptures into the Amharic, one of the two vulgar dialects of Abyssinia. This translation had been executed under the particular care of M. Asselin, the French Consul at Caïro, and it occupied him for ten years. It was rendered into Amharic by a native, under the assiduous examination of M. Asselin.*

Thus this ancient people will become possessed of the Scriptures in a dialect with which they are familiar, and in which no portion of the word of GOD has hitherto been printed. It is impossible to trace the progress of this transaction, without recollecting the prediction of the Royal Psalmist,—"*Ethiopia shall soon stretch out her hands unto God;*" and rejoicing in the conviction, that she shall no longer be "*sent empty away.*" †

ISLE OF FRANCE, &c.—In November 1812, a Bible Society was formed for the islands of Mauritius, Bourbon, and dependencies:—

"In what degree the Scriptures may be supposed to have been wanted in the Mauritius itself, the seat of this institution, may be readily inferred from the account of the Secretary, that many persons were living in the island, at

* The manuscript has already reached London; and the Committee have adopted measures for its being immediately printed.

† While the present work was in the press, the Committee of the CHURCH MISSIONARY SOCIETY, with a degree of Christian and fraternal liberality which enhances the value of the gift, presented to the Library of the British and Foreign Bible Society a beautiful Manuscript copy of the eight first books of the Old Testament in *Ethiopic*, together with a translation of the Gospels in the *Coptic* and *Arabic*, and other valuable Eastern Biblical Manuscripts, which must materially facilitate the pending arrangements for supplying the inhabitants of those extensive regions with the Holy Scriptures.

the advanced age of sixty and seventy years, who never saw a Bible: and the reception which the Scriptures furnished by your society met with in the same island, may be sufficiently judged of by the further assurance of the Secretary, that 'the avidity with which the Bibles and Testaments are purchased is beyond all description; that 100 copies were sold in one day, and twice as many more could, he believes, have been disposed of with the greatest facility;' and, finally, that he receives daily messages of gratitude and thanks from the inhabitants, for the more than kind attention of the British and Foreign Bible Society to their eternal welfare, in supplying them with the means of Scriptural knowledge."—*Tenth Report, p.* 24.

AMERICA.

LABRADOR.—"Thanksgivings continue to be presented from the Christian congregations under the care of the Moravian brethren in Labrador. They represent the copies of the Scriptures which they have received in the Esquimaux language, as 'an invaluable gift,' and as having tended to promote a great eagerness to learn to read, both in children and adults; and they unite, throughout all their settlements, in praying to the LORD, 'to bless that venerable society, which exerts itself with so much zeal and charity to publish the word of GOD in all languages, and send it forth into all parts of the earth.'"—*Tenth Report, p.* 28.

"In Labrador, we observe the simple and patient missionaries, from the Church of the United Brethren, proceeding with their usual assiduity in the translation of the whole New Testament into the Esquimaux language, and pouring forth the warmest strains of gratitude to those benefactors by whose aid the portion already translated had been printed and brought into circulation. Of this, it appears, the most diligent use was made by the members of the Esquimaux congregations. They read it, during their leisure hours, in their houses and their tents; and their whole conduct and conversation were a striking evidence of its power."

Owen's History, Vol. III. *p.* 483.

NOVA SCOTIA.—In reference to the Bible Society established in this province, it is stated:—

"How much such an Institution was wanted, may be learnt from the assertion in the Third Report, that persons who had kept houses, with smaller or larger families, for five, ten, or more than twenty years, had not been able, till then, to obtain a Bible: and the further assertion, that 'in every instance the Scriptures seemed to have been thankfully received,' gives reason to hope that the society will not have been instituted in vain."—*Ibid. Vol.* III. *p.* 485.

CAPE BRETON.—The Governor of this colony, in a letter to Lord Teignmouth, dated May 20, 1818, after acknowledging the receipt of a liberal supply of Bibles and Testaments, in the Gaelic, English, and French languages, voted by the Parent Committee, observes:—

"With respect to the great mass of our population, the Highlanders, they received the beneficence of the society with the utmost gratitude. Persons have been hired, and sent from distances of eighty to one hundred miles to intreat for the sacred volume; and instances are not wanting of others sending their children five and six miles, over frozen lakes, to be instructed by poor old widows, for the avowed purpose of reading the Bible

to their parents, who were themselves, from ignorance, unable to do so. To those places of instruction, as I discover them, I send a few of the least expensive editions of Testaments, as school-books, of which they were nearly destitute; and I consider myself acting in conformity to the wishes of the society, in agreeing to the petitions of families, who, totally ignorant of letters themselves, would occasionally have an opportunity of hearing the Scriptures read by travellers, to whom, with patriarchal hospitality, they give refuge for the night. These people are very poor; and to expect any pecuniary return at present is in vain, and perhaps impolitic: they are, however, temperate in their habits, frugal, and laborious; and I have no doubt, that the views of the society will be better fulfilled by penny-a-week associations, when they are in better circumstances in two or three years hence."

CANADA.—A minister in this extensive colony thus writes, when acknowledging a supply of Bibles and Testaments, sent from the Parent Society in August 1819:—

"Every one, Sir, who knows the moral state of the Canadians, must concur with me in saying, that they could not come to a better place, nor in a better time. These provinces have long been neglected, and their true state but partially known. In Lower Canada the population is estimated at *seven or eight hundred thousand* souls, many of whom have never *seen* a Bible. It is certain that a strong desire exists among them to read the Scriptures."

Sixteenth Report: Appendix, p. 202.

UNITED STATES.—Reference has already been made, in the Ninth Section, to the wants of the extensive regions of the American continent which are included by this designation. But the following extracts will place the subject in a more clear point of view:—

"There has been no edition of the Bible printed *west of the mountains*, and the inducement to merchants to take out many very small, as will appear from the following anecdote. A merchant in Tennessee observed, during the earthquakes in 1811 and 1812, that before these took place *he used to sell ten packs of cards where he sold one Bible; now he sold ten Bibles where he sold one pack of cards.*"—*Tenth Report: Appendix, No.* XXXVIII.

"It was very unusual to find any portion of the sacred volume among our soldiers; and in many instances there were found a hundred sick assembled in a hospital, without having among them one Bible or New Testament.

"Some of the Tennessee Militia, when passing through Nashville, on their way to New Orleans, had inquired in vain for a Bible; not one was to be found for sale: and in the month of December last, a similar inquiry was fruitlessly made in this city, by a gentleman from the Amite; nor is there at this moment a Bible to be purchased in any book-store in the city of New Orleans.

"As there were not Bibles sufficient to supply even the sick in hospitals who were anxious to receive them, it was not uncommon to see one reading aloud to several around: and at other times, two or three, lying on the floor together, would be attempting to read in the same book at the same time. Some of those who had received Bibles, declared a determination to carry them home with them on foot, 800 or 1000 miles; and rather than not carry them, they would throw away part of their baggage.

Louisiana.—Earnest desire to receive the Scriptures.

"Although 3000 copies of the New Testament in French had been received by the President of the Society about the middle of December last; owing to the disturbed state of the country, at that time invaded, none of them were distributed until about the 10th of February. After a few persons had received the New Testament, and it had become generally known that there were more in the hands of one of the managers, who had been appointed to make the gratuitous distribution of the whole number designed for this city, the applications were more frequent than could be supplied: a large crowd of some hundreds of people, of all colours and ranks, was formed before the house, and became literally clamorous to have a *book*; a word which was often vociferated in French by fifty voices at once.

"Such an assembly, for such a purpose, never before witnessed in Louisiana, presented to the beholder many affecting scenes: the young and the old, the rich and the poor, as if alike conscious of their wants, pressed forward with out-stretched hands to receive the valuable gift. A child, not more than five or six years of age, was borne in the arms of its mother, a woman of colour, pressing through the crowd as one of the candidates for a treasure which she seemed justly to estimate: the silence and attention exhibited by the bye-standers were immediately rewarded, by hearing this infant read in an intelligent manner the story related in Mark x. 13—16, rendered doubly interesting by the incidents.

"As all who presented themselves for a French New Testament were asked if they could read, and, if any doubts existed, were put to the trial. An aged black woman, being asked the usual question, and requested to prove the fact, answered, that she could not without her spectacles, which she had not with her; but, unwilling to depart until the object of her wishes had been obtained, she renewed her application, and observed to the distributor, 'If I get a book by a falsehood, it will not be deceiving you, but GOD.' Many persons, who could not read themselves, wished the New Testament for their children, who said they would read it for them."
First Report of the Louisiana Bible Society.—Twelfth Report: App. No. XVIII.

"We know, from actual observation, that there are, on our western borders, thousands of families growing up without the Bible. Many of them are destitute of this invaluable treasure, not merely because they are too parsimonious or too negligent to obtain it, but because it is not within their reach. They reside 1000 miles from any place where the Bible is printed. Seldom is it carried thither by the merchants. We ascertained, by inquiry, that in many of the principal towns of the Western country *there was not a Bible to be sold.*"—*Sixth Report of the New-York Bible Society.*

"Among the applicants for Bibles, there have been several, who declared that they had been endeavouring, for years, some as many as for twelve or fifteen years, to obtain a copy of the Bible in French. Some declared that no present could be more acceptable to them; and others, that they esteemed it beyond hundreds of dollars.

"The Catholics, even the strictest of them, are willing, with scarcely an exception, to receive and read the Bible.

"The Spanish inhabitants have been remarkably pleased, on obtaining the New Testament in their native language: they have received it with great demonstrations of joy. The expressions used by some, on being presented with a New Testament, deserve notice. One observed, 'This book contains *the pure truth, and nothing but the truth.*' Another, on reading the title-page of the New Testament, as soon as he came to the words 'JESUS CHRIST,' stopped, and said, with much earnestness, '*This is my King and my God—He is my All.*' Another, on being asked if the Spaniards were satisfied

with their New Testament, observed, that '*they could not be Christians who were not.*'"—*Second Report of the Louisiana Bible Society.*

"When this Institution was first proposed, there were some who objected, that it was not needed; that the poor in this country are as well supplied with Bibles as the rich. But inquiry has proved this objection false. Many ministers, who had the same impression, have expressed their surprise at the want of Bibles in their societies. One thus writes: 'I am astonished to think that I should know no more: how many poor people are unprovided with the Bible!' Another writes: 'It is surprising, that, when the case of the poor with respect to Bibles is investigated, we should find such great deficiency.' Another says: 'I had no idea that there were so many destitute in this town.'

"The books which have been distributed by the society have been received with gratitude and joy, and many interesting expressions of these sentiments have been transmitted to your Committee. One letter says: 'These poor people received the Bibles thankfully, and requested me to make their acknowledgments to the society. Some of them were very eloquent in imploring the benedictions of Heaven on those who were instrumental in imparting to them so valuable a present.' Another says: ''Till I had no more books to distribute, my chamber was constantly crowded. Could the society witness the manifest thankfulness with which their bounty is received, I think they would believe their charity well applied in this region.' Another says: 'They all expressed much joy at the reception of the gift. Some could scarcely speak, to think that GOD should send them his blessed word, of which they were so unworthy. One aged man in particular, on accepting one of the large Bibles, burst into tears of joy, and put it under his coat near his heart, and said, I will put it as near my heart as I can.' Another says: 'A very vicious and indigent family, to which a Bible was given, have constantly attended Meeting for a number of Sabbaths, when I had never seen them in the Meeting-house for twelve years before.'—Can there be a greater encouragement or reward to the society, than this grateful eagerness with which the word of GOD is received?"

First Report of Massachusetts Bible Society.

"The deficiency of Bibles has been found to be much greater than was expected; and it is believed to be as great in many other places. The number of families and individuals who are destitute of a copy of the Scriptures is so considerable, that the whole of the funds of the Society could be profitably expended, in supplying the wants of this city alone; and the opportunities of distributing them in other places are so numerous, that, if these funds were tenfold as great as they are, they would be still inadequate to supply the demand."

First Report of the Philadelphia Bible Society.

"The most affecting account which we have of the want of Bibles, in this country, is to be found in Messrs. Mills and Smith's Report of their Missionary Tour through it, during the last year. They represent every part of which they speak, as covered with gross darkness, for want of the light of Scripture. They tell us of old men, who greatly desired a Bible, and who had often sought it, who, nevertheless, have never had a Bible in their houses. They tell us of mothers, with their children in their arms, pressing through the crowd to solicit a Bible. They tell us of families who *never saw a Bible, nor heard of* JESUS CHRIST. They speak of large territories, where more than two-thirds of the inhabitants are supposed to be destitute of the Scriptures. 'In Kaskaskias, a place containing from eighty to one hundred families, there are, it is thought, not more than four or five Bibles.' In the Illinois territory they say, they 'did not find *any place* where a copy

of the Scriptures could be obtained.' They declare it as their sober conviction, that at least 76,000 Bibles are necessary for the supply of the destitute in that part of our country. And, 'it is thought, by judicious people, that *half a million* of Bibles are necessary for the supply of the destitute in the United States.' There is, then, much to be done; and we are called upon by the *worth* of souls, by the *example* of thousands, and by the *blessing* of Heaven, to engage, with renewed spirit, in this work."

Thirteenth Report: Appendix, No. XVIII.

West Indies, &c.—Extract of a letter from *Surinam*:—

"You can scarcely form any adequate idea of the eagerness with which the Dutch Bibles and Testaments have been sought after. Indeed, scarcely was it known that such books had arrived, when old and young flocked to my house, in such crowds, that my door was, as it were, besieged from morning to night; and, no sooner was it opened to dismiss one party, than another entered, in such numbers, that I was really apprehensive lest accidents might happen. As I myself enjoyed the privilege of being an almoner of this bounty, I can testify, from personal observation, that the gift was received with evident marks of gratitude, reverence, and attention."

Eleventh Report: Appendix, No. XXXVIII.

"In the Islands of *Antigua* and *St. Christopher*, copies of the Scriptures, furnished by your Committee, have been distributed among an eager and a thankful people. 'Several pious Blacks,' writes a correspondent, 'came from *Barbuda*, an island a short distance from Antigua, to request that a few Bibles and Testaments might be given them: for these they begged in a very affecting manner. I gave them two dozen Testaments. On receiving the rich treasure, their joy was inexpressible, as might be seen by the tears which flowed down their sable faces."

"Similar accounts have been received from *Berbice* and *Demerara*; from the latter of which places, the distributor writes:—'I had no just idea of the number of Negroes that wish for Bibles, till I mentioned to some of them that I would procure Bibles for those who wished to have them. The next week, applications poured in from every plantation, and every quarter.' "

"Statements of a like nature have been transmitted from *New Providence*, where whites and blacks emulated each other in expressing their thanks for the Bibles and Testaments received, and in petitioning for further supplies."

Fourteenth Report, p. lxxxiii. *et seq.*

From a Minister in one of the *Bahama Islands*:—

"The books of which you advised me, arrived safe, and in excellent condition. They have proved a most acceptable and seasonable supply. I am persuaded the attention of the Committee of the British and Foreign Bible Society could not have been directed to a part of his Majesty's dominions, which stood more in need of Bibles and Testaments than the Bahama Islands. I am happy to say, that numbers of families who had no Bible or Testament (some indeed had a few leaves carefully preserved) now possess the book they prize above every other, and rejoice in its possession. One poor woman told me, that she never read a chapter in her life, till she read one in the Testament I let her father have, and that she never received such light as she did from reading it. The Committee would be pleased to see the poor old widows reading their large Testaments; they consider themselves rich indeed, and they requested me to return their thanks to the Committee for so great a gift; some of them would insist on giving the widow's mite, and some gave sixpence. I beg leave to offer my thanks, and those of the poor people, both whites and blacks, to the Committee, for the Bibles and Testa-

ments I received from them, and pray that GOD may bless every member of the Committee here and hereafter.

"All the Spanish Testaments are disposed of; forty-eight were sold in one day. My friend, Dr. Dumaresq, who took upon himself the disposal of the whole, having been acquainted with many of the Spaniards, told me, that, as soon as they found it to be the New Testament, the avidity with which the books were purchased was beyond description. Dr. Dumaresq has received applications for upwards of a hundred Testaments."

Fifteenth Report: Appendix, p. 245 *et seq.*

3. Having thus shewn, from unquestionable documents, the state of the various portions of the world, with regard to their want of the holy scriptures, and their desire to possess them, it may not be unprofitable to place this important subject in another point of view.

To ascertain the population of the globe, is a question on which accuracy cannot be expected; but it has been estimated at *one thousand millions*, which have been thus divided:—

630 millions of Pagans,
12 millions of Jews,
188 millions of Mahomedans,
170 millions of Christians, including the Greek, the Papal, and the Protestant Communions. *

And it has been computed, that the total number of copies of the holy scriptures issued from the press, from the discovery of the art of printing to the present time, does not exceed *twenty-five millions*. When compared with the wants of the Christian world, how insufficient is this supply, even supposing every copy to have been preserved! But, when viewed in reference to the infidel and heathen world, what a powerful claim does it furnish on the feelings and exertions of all who believe in the truths of the Bible, and acknowledge that "*there is no other name given under heaven among men, whereby we can be saved,*" but that of Jesus Christ!

On the basis of this estimate we may pursue the calculation, and endeavour to ascertain the probable period when the light of revelation will illuminate the abodes of ignorance, superstition, and idolatry. Sixteen years have elapsed since the establishment of the Bible Society; and it has, either directly or indirectly, added Four millions of copies to those which had been previously printed. Even supposing—what we know cannot be the fact—that these, and every Bible and Testament on earth, with all that have been ever printed, are still preserved, and possessed by professing Christians, and that we allow five individuals to a family,—no fewer than Nine

* See Gregory's Dictionary of Arts and Sciences, article "Population;" and, Adams's View of Religions.

Appeal founded on the preceding statements.

millions of Christian families are still destitute of this guide to heaven and to happiness. And it is evident, that if it have required sixteen years to supply four millions of families, it will demand the continued exertions of *thirty-six years* to provide nine millions of copies, for our destitute brethren of the Christian name, so that every family may possess a Bible.

But are eight hundred and thirty millions of our fellow-creatures to remain destitute? They, too, are heirs of immortality; they, too, have souls which must be eternally miserable, or for ever happy! Many of them are now demanding, with anxious solicitude, the blessed Scriptures, "*which are able to make them wise unto salvation, through faith which is in* CHRIST JESUS;" and under the influence of that charity which "*never faileth*," the means are provided for *their* supply. If we continue the estimate in reference to the heathen and infidel world, we shall find, that, without greatly-increased exertion and extended resources, it will require more than *six hundred and sixty-four years* to place one copy of the sacred volume in every family upon earth!

Well, therefore, may we adopt the words of an eloquent advocate of the Bible Society:—

"Let any man, who feels as he ought for the interests of Christianity and the welfare of his fellow-creatures, look upon a map of the world, and his heart must sicken at the sight of kingdoms and continents immersed in the profoundest ignorance, '*without hope, and without* GOD *in the world.*' Whether we direct our attention to the myriads of China, and to the overflowing population of the civilized East; or pass through the barbarous kingdoms of Africa, and then fix our regards on the superstitious inhabitants of the West; how little has been done to spread, through those benighted lands, the knowledge of the word of GOD! And if we turn to those countries where the light of Christianity has in some degree shone, how little, in most instances, are we able to trace of her genuine character!" *

Contemplating, as Britons and as Christians, the state of the world as here exhibited, and beholding the prospects which a GOD of infinite mercy is opening on every side, we may surely urge on the attention of every individual, the animated appeal of the Bishop of Gloucester to the clergy of his diocese; and tell him,

"That, if, by elevating his estimate of the claims of charity a little higher, above the worldly, towards the Christian standard; if, by a little stretch of self-denial, he can augment his fund for charitable contribution; he may safely and joyfully cast his mite into the treasury of the British and Foreign Bible Society, enrol his name among a large proportion of the most justly distinguished characters in Church and State, and assume his share of the labour and delight of erecting that stupendous edifice which is the glory of

* *Dealtry's Vindication of the British and Foreign Bible Society, p. 35.*

Desire manifested by the Jews to receive the Scriptures.

his age, his country, and his church; which is so prosperously begun; and which must surely continue, till the word of GOD shall have not only '*mightily grown*,' but '*prevailed*,' to the enlightening of every people; and till all '*the kingdoms of this world shall have become the kingdoms of our* LORD, *and of his* CHRIST.'"*

SECTION XI.

ON THE DESIRE MANIFESTED BY THE JEWS TO RECEIVE THE HOLY SCRIPTURES.

1. Having, in the preceding section, considered the state of the world, without particular reference to this peculiar and ancient people, it seems desirable, at the present period, to select a few of those numerous testimonies from different quarters, which indicate a desire on the part of the Jews to receive and study the holy scriptures. Many excellent persons, in this age of benevolence, have cherished a persuasion, that the days are approaching, when the promises of GOD and the predictions of his prophets shall be accomplished; when "*the remnant shall return, even the remnant of Jacob, unto the mighty* GOD:" and it is difficult to reconcile this prevalent disposition with the former habits and character of this singular people, unless we admit a belief, that the LORD is about to "*arise and have mercy upon Zion: for the time to favour her, yea, the set time is come.*"

2. Beginning with our own quarter of the world, the following extracts appear important:—

From the Rev. Dr. Pinkerton, dated "Moghiley, November 1816:"—

"Among other interesting things, the archbishop Anatoli informed me, that there is a great inclination among many of the first Jewish families in the province (Lithuania) to embrace Christianity; that he has already baptized several of them, and has two under his tuition at present. He highly approved of the translation of the New Testament into the Hebrew, and earnestly desired a number of copies for immediate circulation. I presented him with a copy of the two first gospels in Hebrew, for the use of his two distinguished Hebrew pupils; and promised to send him, for distribution, a number of copies of such part of the Hebrew Testament as were ready, as soon as possible after my return to St. Petersburg."

Thirteenth Report: Appendix, p. 114 *et seq.*

From the same, dated "Witepsk, November 1816:"—

"You will have observed with pleasure, in my former communication, that, through the establishment of a Bible Society in Poland, and in the several provinces of the Russian empire, formerly belonging to that kingdom,

* See Bishop of Gloucester's Charge at his Primary Visitation.

a wide door is opened for circulating the holy scriptures of both the Old and New Testament, among the numerous Jews inhabiting those countries; many of whom, in the present day, seem well inclined towards Christianity. According to the calculation of his Excellency M. Novozilzoff, the number of Jews under the Russian sceptre is upwards of two millions, of whom about 400,000 are found in the present kingdom of Poland. Such of the twenty copies of the two first gospels, in Hebrew, which I brought with me from Berlin, as I presented to Jews, were always received with joy; and I am fully of opinion, that the very circumstance of their being in the Hebrew language will gain them an attentive perusal among the learned Jews in every country, where no writings on the subject of Christianity, in any other form, would be attended to. Before my leaving Moghiley, the Jews in that city had sent in 500 rubles, to promote the object of the White-Russian Bible Society."—*Thirteenth Report: Appendix, p.* 117.

"Among the information collected by Mr. Pinkerton, in the course of his journey, that relating to the disposition of many of the Jews to receive the New Testament is particularly interesting. The late wars and commotions on the earth, with the present wonderful exertions to spread the holy scriptures among all nations, seem to have made a deep impression on the minds of many of that people. Your Committee, most anxious to gratify every such disposition, have procured from the Society for promoting Christianity among the Jews, copies of the Gospels and Acts in Hebrew, and despatched supplies to the Russian, Polish, and Frankfort Bible Societies."—*Ibid. p.* lii.

From the same, dated "Polangen, July 1818:"—

"In the suburbs of the ancient town of Troki, I paid a visit to a colony of Caraïte Jews, who have inhabited this delightful spot for several centuries past. On entering the house of the chief rabbi, I saluted him in Tartar, and, to my astonishment, was answered in the same language. None of them could speak Jewish German, the common language of all the Polish Jews. I inquired, whence they originally were: the answer was; 'From the Crimea;' that they and their ancestors have resided in Troki for nearly four hundred years, and that they possess very distinguished privileges from the ancient dukes of Lithuania and kings of Poland.

"I asked them, whether they still had intercourse with their brethren in Dschoufait Kale. They replied, that they not only visited them, but also were visited by them. The Tartar language is still the only one spoken in their families, though most of the men could speak both the Russian and Polish. They are neither dressed like their brethren in the Crimea, who have retained the Tartar costume, nor like the Polish Jews, whose dress is peculiar to themselves, but like the common Poles and Russians. The number of the Caraïtes in Troki is about 160 souls.

"'Before I had finished my inquiries relative to these particulars, the house of the middle-aged rabbi was filled with his brethren, who were all anxious to know who the stranger was, and what he wanted. Our conversation then turned upon the signs of the times, and the coming of the MESSIAH, and lasted upwards of an hour and a half. I stated the truth to them as clearly and as forcibly as I could. The rabbi defended his position—that the MESSIAH was still to come, with the Old Testament in his hand; but having no Talmudic interpretations to screen himself behind, he was soon greatly at a loss. The people in the mean time were all attention: they had never heard such discourse before. The rabbi was at last so much touched with what was said, that he changed colour, and turned aside. Another of his brethren, a merchant, then came forward, and, with con-

Joy and gratitude visible on receiving the Hebrew Testament.

siderable shrewdness, attempted to defend the cause, in the view of the people, who were now muttering to each other, and anxious to know how all this would end. Having proved to him, also, that the MESSIAH must needs have come, I spoke of the purity and spirituality of the Gospel, and of that eternal life which is revealed in the doctrines which CHRIST taught. The merchant, I found, had read the Polish Testament with considerable attention. The rabbi stood like one confounded: I never saw any individual in such a state before. I asked them, whether they had ever read the doctrines of CHRIST and his Apostles in Hebrew. The question seemed to rouse their curiosity to the extreme. They replied, that they had heard that such a thing existed, but that they had never seen the Hebrew Testament. I then inquired, whether they desired to see it. They all replied, that they would be very happy should they get a copy of it. By this time, my caleshe, and servant, with fresh horses, were before the door. I took out five copies of the Hebrew Testament, and presented the rabbi with the first. He seemed to get new animation at the sight of it, accepted it most willingly, embraced, and thanked me for it. I then gave a copy to the merchant, who seemed no less overjoyed, and was warm in his expressions of gratitude. Now the difficulty was, how to distribute the remaining three. All hands were stretched out, and every one cried, 'Oh, let me have one also!' I was greatly embarrassed. An interesting young man stood near me; several times he stretched out his hand, as if eagerly desiring to grasp the third copy, which I held in my hand,—and as often he abruptly drew it back again. I read in his countenance a strong combat in his feelings between civility and desire. To him I gave the third. His countenance now shone with gratification and joy, and all present loudly approved the act. A fourth and a fifth I bestowed on two other of these interesting people. They all commenced reading with great avidity; and, before I left them, gave me proofs of their understanding well what they read. I told them, that I hoped in a short time to hear of their having formed themselves into a community of believers in the LORD JESUS, founded on the glorious truths of that blessed volume which I had just put into their hands. Amid loud expressions of gratitude and wonder, I left the house of the rabbi, took farewell of this truly interesting little people, and proceeded on my journey. The merchant did not part with me, however, so soon: he walked with me upwards of a verst up the border of the beautiful lake, whose surface, with the charming surrounding scenery, was gilded with the rays of the evening sun. He put many questions to me respecting the signs of the times, and the spread of the Gospel; and left me with these words: 'I believe that some important crisis with our people is at hand; what it is, I cannot now say,—God will direct all.'

"In Rosiena, many of the Jews came to me, and begged for Hebrew Testaments; some of them with money in their hands. I was able to spare five copies only."—*Fifteenth Report: Appendix, p.* 51 *et seq.*

From the same, dated "Memel, July 1818:"—

"Since I entered the government of Witepsk, not a great distance from Polotsk, I have distributed about seventy copies of the Hebrew Scriptures among the Jews. I could have given away many hundred copies more, had I possessed them. The number of those Jews who are capable of understanding the Hebrew Testament, particularly about Witepsk, Orsha, Skloff, Minsk, and Wilna, is far greater than I formerly believed; and there seems to be a general readiness among them to accept of it—an impelling curiosity to read the doctrines of CHRIST and his Apostles in the Hebrew language. This circumstance ought surely to encourage us to put the New

Testament into the hands of that people. What regards the conversion of the Jews as a nation, is a subject with which we have but little to do; but, as a Bible Society, let us strive to leaven the whole Jewish nation with the leaven of the Gospel. This is our duty:—this we are encouraged to do from the present circumstances of that people, and the promises of God, which assure us that our labour shall not be in vain. The Hebrew Testament *will* be read by them;—the trial has already been made. The Jews in Russia and Poland have never, until now, had an opportunity of knowing what Christianity is. One of them, in the town of Borisoff, who had been in possession of a Hebrew Testament for some months before I came that way, told me, that neither they nor their fathers had ever read those things before."—*Ibid. p.* 55 *et seq.*

From the Rev. Leander Van Ess, dated "Marburg, June 1818:"—

"My church is frequented by many Jews, and numbers of them are fond of reading my New Testament."—*Ibid. p.* 196.

From the same, dated "Wildbad, July 1819:"—

"I have still one request to make; and that is, that your Committee would kindly supply me with a number of copies of the Hebrew New Testament: I am frequently applied to for them by Jews from various places. Though this nation is brought with great difficulty to believe in the MESSIAH as already appeared, yet the reading of the New Testament produces thoughtfulness and a better disposition of mind in them. I have often had an opportunity of observing this; for in many Jewish families the Hebrew New Testament is read with the greatest attention, and the passages which refer to the prophecies concerning the MESSIAH are immediately compared."—*Sixteenth Report: Appendix, p.* 157.

"Even among the Jews the same spirit seems to be moving; and the dawn of a bright day begins to shed its reviving light. It has been observed, that many of the mechanics, who formerly used to riot and sport away their time in their lodgings, are now employed in reading the Testament in some retired spot."—*Ibid. p.* 97.

From a correspondent in Germany, dated "Feb. 1818:"—

"We likewise have profited by opposition. From every quarter, applications are making for Bibles. People are desirous to know what may be contained in the forbidden book, and many are made acquainted with it through their curiosity. The Jews likewise request copies, and we have dispersed to them upwards of fifteen. A rabbi, whose attention I directed to the Sermon on the Mount, causing him to observe the greater purity of the moral precepts contained in it, in comparison with the letter of the Old Testament, ran joyfully away, holding his finger upon the chapter, full of zeal to communicate this discovery to his disciples. May the Lord bless the scattered seed!"—*Monthly Extracts, No.* 9.

"The Emperor Alexander has employed a converted Jew to visit the Jews in his dominions, to converse with them on religion, and to distribute among them Hebrew Testaments. In a letter received from him by the Rev. P. Treschow, he states, that he had been visited by several thousands of Jews; that at Rodonov, the rabbies and several Jews expressed themselves as quite astonished at the contents of the New Testament: at Grodno, numbers came to his lodging, anxious to obtain books; and declaring, that the truth contained in the New Testament would by no means lead the Jews

away from the GOD of their fathers, but that it tends to awaken the heart to love and serve GOD.—Many young men at Wilna came to Mr. Moritz, and stated, that they were convinced, from reading the New Testament, that CHRIST is the true MESSIAH, and that they were inclined to embrace Christianity.

"At Mitau, so great was the desire to possess the Hebrew New Testaments, that some of the Jews offered to contribute to the printing of them, if Mr. M. would let them be printed in that town.

"In a tour lately made for the purpose of inquiry, in Russia, Poland, &c. by the Rev. L. Way, and the Rev. B. N. Solomon, it was observed that most of the Jewish rabbies accepted copies of the Hebrew New Testament. The Jewish people in general discovered not merely a *willingness*, but an *anxiety* to possess a copy. In a letter dated from Poland, Mr. Solomon writes:—"I am happy to tell you, that what we have witnessed amongst the Jews, during our abode in Poland, has exceeded all my expectations, and in some instances quite overwhelmed me with astonishment. Their old prejudices against the very name of JESUS, which have so long darkened their minds, and have been a bar against all inquiry and reasoning, are now marvellously dispersed, and they are inclined and even desirous to speak about the Christian religion with every possible freedom. It was truly pleasing to see the avidity with which they received the Hebrew Testament from our hands, and the thirst which they uniformly manifested to know its contents. Wherever one was granted them, numbers of Jews were immediately after seen in the streets in rings, and one of them reading it aloud. Where we remained awhile, they used to surround me in the market-places, or come to the inn in numbers, asking explanations of some passages, or making objections to others. All were patient for an answer; and whilst sometimes a person stood up against it, others at the same time heard gladly, and even manifested joy in their countenances at what I had to say to them of CHRIST and his gospel."—*Eleventh and Twelfth Reports of the London Society for promoting Christianity among the Jews.*

3. From the Rev. Dr. Paterson, dated "St. Petersburg, July 1819:"—

"The Jews, in Siberia, begin to manifest their zeal for the Bible Society; have collected money, and request to have Bibles."

Sixteenth Report: Appendix, p. 44.

From the Rev. James Connor, dated "Aleppo, April 1820:"—

"I had only two Hebrew Bibles, which were immediately sold; and if I had had a hundred of them, I could have parted with them easily. Several Jews called on me, to inquire if I had the Scriptures in Arabic, but in the Hebrew character; they told me that such an edition would have a great sale among the Jews in Syria: this is worthy the consideration of the Committee of the Bible Society."—*Missionary Register for September*, 1820.

4. From a Minister at Surinam, dated "Paramaribo, February 1815:—

"The whole Bibles are in greater requisition than the New Testaments, which chiefly arises from the great eagerness of the Jews, who are very numerous in this colony, to obtain possession of the Old Testament in the Dutch language. They use the Hebrew language in their synagogues; and

their children are taught in the schools to read that language, but merely to enable them to join in the prayers and psalms that are used in the synagogues. Most of them read Hebrew, but they do not understand it.

"The Committee of the British and Foreign Bible Society have therefore rendered an essential service to the Jewish people in this place, by sending so large a number of Dutch Bibles; for, by this means, the young people, among the Jews, may become acquainted with the true history of their ancestors, and read the Commandments of GOD in a language that is intelligible to them. Most of the Bibles which I have sold have been purchased by Jews."—*Eleventh Report: Appendix, No.* LXXIV.

"The Committee established at Surinam have directed their exertions especially towards the Jewish population, with so much success, that many among them evince a true desire to read the word of GOD. A considerable number of Hebrew Bibles, and not a few Hebrew New Testaments, have been eagerly received, and a zeal and desire are discovered among the descendants of Abraham in that colony, scarcely to be met with in Europe."
Sixteenth Report: Appendix, p. 77.

"*Now if the fall of them be the riches of the world, and the diminishing of them the riches of the Gentiles; how much more their fulness? For if the casting away of them be the reconciling of the world, what shall the receiving of them be, but life from the dead?*—ROMANS, xi. 12—15.

SECTION XII.

ON THE RESULTS OF THE SYSTEM OF THE BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY.

1. The Annual Reports of the Parent Institution, and the luminous compendium of those reports contained in the history of the society by its clerical secretary, supply much of that information which naturally falls under this division of the chapter; yet a succinct review of the effects produced, and of many *collateral* advantages which have been but slightly adverted to in those valuable records, seems to be necessarily involved in a work of this nature. It is by the effects which it has produced, that the system now under consideration will be appreciated by posterity; and it is by those effects that many of our cotemporaries will be induced to adopt it. In this, as in the preceding parts of the work, the author feels himself justified in fortifying his own opinions by those of many estimable individuals, and by adding their observations to the result of his own experience.

Without attempting to define, with accuracy, that line which separates the direct benefits of the Bible Society, from those which may be termed collateral, it will be sufficient to consider both, in that order wherein they appear to have followed the progress of the Institution.

First supply of Bibles in Wales.—Increased regard for the Scriptures.

2. An increased regard and reverence for the holy scriptures, and a desire for their possession, appear to have been among the first effects produced both in our own country and in foreign nations.

"The partial distribution of English Bibles and Testaments had already (1810) produced a very discernible effect: it had awakened an attention to the subject, which appeared to be increasing; and many were now seen to manifest a desire for a Bible, who had hitherto been insensible of its value, or even ignorant of its contents."*

The following account of the manner in which the first supply of Testaments was received in Wales—a country which may be termed the birth-place of the Society—is given on the authority of "an eye-witness:"—

"When the arrival of the cart was announced, which carried the first sacred load, the Welsh peasants went out in crowds to meet it; welcomed it as the Israelites did the ark of old; drew it into the town; and eagerly bore off every copy, as rapidly as they could be dispersed. The young people were to be seen consuming the whole night in reading it. Labourers carried it with them to the field, that they might enjoy it during the intervals of their labour, and lose no opportunity of becoming acquainted with its sacred truths."—*Christian Observer for July*, 1810.

In America, a similar disposition was manifested, as appears by the following declaration of the Committees of the Connecticut and New-York Bible Societies:—

"Never was the entrance of the kingdom of heaven so widely opened to mankind as it now is. Never were the importance and the encouragement of opening it still wider, more manifest. The disposition of men to receive the word of GOD is, in many places, scarcely less indicative of a divine hand, than the corresponding disposition to communicate it. Both together intimate the near approach of the happy period when the knowledge of the LORD shall fill the earth."†

"A taste for reading the Scriptures is rapidly extending; and we trust and believe, that pure religion is now taking hold of the hearts of the people in this country, in a manner before unheard of; and our Christian brethren of your country may rest assured, that our hearts are with them in all their efforts to diffuse throughout the world the light of the Gospel. It is a pleasing reflection, that 600 miles in the interior of our country, where fifteen years ago the foot of civilized man had never trod, you now find villages, churches, Bible Societies, and what is still more cheering, *real piety*."‡

3. That the extension of the REDEEMER's kingdom, as manifested in the progress of "*righteousness and true holiness*," has borne some proportion to the increased circulation of the holy scriptures, the Christian will readily believe; while he

* Owen's History Vol. II. p. 172.
† Twelfth Report of the British and Foreign Bible Society; Appendix, p. 44.
‡ Ibid. p. 51.

rejoices in every renewed confirmation of his faith in the promises of GOD. The following instances, selected from a multitude of similar testimonies, will gratify the reader:—

"Three hundred and fifty Bibles have been placed in the workhouse; and it is most pleasing to listen to the religious strains which now resound through the vast wards of this institution, and to hear those, who formerly were a disgraceful rabble, proclaiming the praise of the ALMIGHTY. What may not the Bible effect, when accompanied with power from on high!"*

"All good men will certainly rejoice, wherever and by whomsoever good is done; particularly if the effect be to glorify the word and the name of CHRIST: and this is surely the case now, when such earnest zeal is displayed to make known his great salvation, and proclaim his infinite merits. This grateful joy will be much heightened, by the pleasing intelligence which I have to communicate; and which is the result, not only of my own observations, but also of an extensive correspondence;—that the dissemination of the holy scriptures is attended with a signal blessing, both among our Catholic and our Protestant brethren, whose hearts have been drawn to the GOD of the Bible by the perusal of his holy word."†

4. A greater regard for the sabbath, and more general and regular attendance on divine worship, was another and an early result of the society's labours, and an evidence that they were not in vain. From among numerous testimonies to this effect, the following is selected, as coming from a clergyman resident on a spot long proverbial for the profligacy and irreligion of its inhabitants, among whom his ministerial duties have been discharged with exemplary diligence and success:—

"On the arrival of your valuable present of Bibles and Testaments, I was surrounded by so many earnest applicants, that in six days *all* the Bibles were disposed of. The price put upon them appeared to enhance their value; and so anxious were the poor to have them, that many borrowed the money through fear of losing the opportunity.—'Thank God! I have at last got a Bible,' was their heartfelt exclamation. They considered it a blessing and a treasure. The effects already excited by the circulation of the Scriptures among us, have been very conspicuous. I have unexpectedly found several individuals with their Bibles before them. A comparatively very full attendance at public worship appears to have been already produced by the powerful word of GOD; and an accession of eighteen communicants, shews an interest and emulation to partake of that happiness which a conformity with the precepts of CHRIST alone can inspire and secure."‡

That similar effects have been produced, in places still more unfavourable to the reception of divine truth, the following is a striking evidence:—

* Report of the Hoorn Auxiliary Bible Society, in connexion with the Netherlands Bible Society.

† Letter from the Rev. Leander Van Ess, quoted by Owen, Vol. III. p. 455.

‡ Letter from the Rev. P. M. Proctor, Newland, Forest of Dean.—Second Report of Bristol Auxiliary Bible Society.

and in Ceylon.——Conversions to Christianity in India.

"The introduction of the Scriptures among the prisoners in the jails (of Ceylon), through the instrumentality of the Wesleyan Missionaries, has been attended with the happiest success. When Mr. Lynch first visited the jail of Jaffna, he found only two of the prisoners who could read; and he gave to each a Testament, which they promised to read to their fellow-prisoners. In the course of a short time, one of them had read the whole to several who were anxious to hear it. The jailor reported, that since this humane attention had been shewn to the prisoners, the prison was no longer disturbed with the same drunken noise, and gambling, which before too frequently prevailed. A similar reform is stated to have followed the employment of the same means among the prisoners in the jail at Point de Galle. This reform was characterized, among other things, by a particular respect for the sabbath. 'They were formerly,' observes the relater, 'in the habit of cleansing out the jail on Sunday morning; but now they work after their usual hour on Saturday evening, to avoid breaking the fourth commandment.' Such results, while they evince the power of the divine word, and that under very unfavourable circumstances, demonstrate, at the same time, the seasonableness and utility of those exertions, by which its dissemination is promoted."—*Fourteenth Report, p.* 68.

5. Nor were these happy effects confined to the Christian world:

"Evidences appeared of numerous conversions having taken place, without the intervention of any other means than the uncommented and unexpounded text of the holy scriptures. These gratifying instances encouraged the British and Foreign Bible Society to proceed in its career, by justifying the belief upon which it has uniformly acted, that, '*the word of* GOD' would prove to be '*quick and powerful,*' and the instrument of '*turning many from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto* GOD.'"

From among numerous instances which establish the truth of this sentiment, the following is selected, in addition to those already introduced in the preceding Sections:—

"Dr. Carey speaks of the Missionaries at Serampore being indebted for two of their 'most active and useful native preachers,' as well as several other brethren, 'to a New Testament left at a shop;' and for two other members of their body, to the impression made 'by reading an English Testament.' But a still more extraordinary fact was, that, early in 1813, several Brahmins and persons of high caste, not many miles from Serampore, obtained the knowledge of the truth, and met for Christian worship on the LORD'S day, before they had any intercourse with the Missionaries, *simply by reading the Scriptures.* 'These,' adds Dr. Carey, 'were soon afterwards baptized; and reported, that, by the same means, as many as a hundred of their neighbours were convinced of the truth of the Christian religion, and were kept back from professing it, only by the fear of losing caste, and its consequences.'" *

6. So numerous and important have been the advantages derived from the establishment of the British and Foreign Bible

* *Owen's History: Vol.* II. *p.* 454 *et seq.* In the "Episcopal Testimonies," Appendix, No. III. the reader will find this sentiment, in favour of the sufficiency of the holy scriptures, confirmed and enforced by the late able and learned Bishop Horsley.

Society, that it has become the subject of common inquiry, why a design so simple in its nature, so practicable in its details, and so beneficial in its effects, was not sooner devised and executed. Without entering, at present, into this question, it may be sufficient to observe, that the period at which the society was instituted appears to have been peculiarly auspicious, and of HIS appointment "*who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will.*" The minds of men were prepared in a remarkable manner for this event; and the Bible Society soon became a "central point of union for individuals, and societies animated with the same spirit, however variously circumstanced or widely dispersed. Like a city set on a hill, it speedily became conspicuous; and the rays of light which have flowed from it, have been reflected with undiminished lustre." Adverting to this happy result of their association, the Committee, in their Ninth Report, thus express their feelings:—

"Amidst the various pleasing aspects under which the British and Foreign Bible Society may be viewed, there is none more gratifying to the feelings than the contemplation of it as a point of union among Christians in all parts of the world; a union of spirit and co-operation for promoting the glory of GOD and the dearest interests of his creatures; a union of feelings and affections inspired and fostered by the holy book which it circulates; a union which national hostility has not been permitted to extinguish, and which cannot be better described, than in the emphatical words of the venerable Bishop of Zealand,—'A fraternal union, founded on the bond of our holy religion.'"

Never did the author witness a finer illustration of this principle of mutual charity and peace, than on the 17th of December 1812, on an occasion which is thus commemorated by his valued friend, from whose volumes he has already so liberally borrowed:—

"The union of men in the support and recommendation of the British and Foreign Bible Society, whose political sentiments were diametrically opposed to each other, had, by the frequency of its occurrence, become, in a manner, familiar to the friends of the institution. But every former triumph of this description was lost in the splendour of that which was exhibited at the Westminster Meeting, when Lord Castlereagh and the late Samuel Whitbread, Esq. were seen personally united in recommending the formation of the Westminster Auxiliary Bible Society, and respectively moving and seconding the resolutions by which it was to be established." *

"On this incident," he adds, "so honorable to the living fame of one of these characters, and the respected memory of the other, the pen of a celebrated female writer has furnished us with a very appropriate reflection:—

"'It is indeed a spectacle, to warm the coldest, and to soften the hardest heart, to behold men of the first rank and talents; statesmen, who have never met but to oppose each other; orators, who have never spoken but to

* Owen's History, Vol. II. p. 333 et seq.

Similar effects produced in Germany, Switzerland, India, America, &c.

differ; each strenuous in what, it is presumed, he believes right, renouncing every interfering interest, sacrificing every jarring opinion, forgetting all in which they differed, and thinking only on that in which they agree; each reconciled to his brother, and leaving his gift at the altar, offering up every resentment at the foot of the Cross.' " *

Nor was the joy excited by those triumphs of charity and peace confined to British Christians:—

" In Hanover, as in Petersburg, I saw," says Mr. Pinkerton, " the Lutheran, Calvinistic, and Catholic Clergy, join hands to promote the good cause: and some of these persons assured me, after the meeting, that though they had been teachers of the same religion in this city for many years, yet they had never had an opportunity of speaking to each other before. Oh! what a blessed plan, which is capable of bringing together the long-divided parts of the Christian Church!" †

In a similar strain, the venerable Antistes Hess, of Zurich, thus addresses the Foreign Secretary:—

" To you we are chiefly indebted for that new (or, let me rather say, renewed) bond of Christian truth and charity; by means of which we behold Christians, widely separated from each other by countries, forms, and names, daily approximating and coalescing, as it were, into one spiritual body; yet without the least encroachment upon outward distinctions, and without compelling a single individual to desert his own church and to pass over to another.

" You have, as it were, opened the door of the common temple dedicated to the worship of our GOD and SAVIOUR, for all, to whatever particular Church they may belong, if they only agree in acknowledging, as a fundamental principle of religion, the general use of the Scriptures by all classes of people:—a work worthy indeed of your piety and philanthropy!" ‡

" Of all the signs of these eventful times," says the Rev. T. Thomason, of Calcutta, " none affects my mind, as indicating the near fulfilment of prophecy respecting the glory of the latter days, so much as the extensive union of Christians, differing in name and profession and nation, which is presented to us in the British and Foreign Bible Society. To this characteristic feature of the society must be ascribed, under GOD, the extraordinary vigour of its operations, and the extensive success with which they have been crowned. While this union remains unimpaired, our prospects must continue to open, and shine with progressively increasing brightness, until the earth be filled with the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea." §

" As in England, so in Nova Scotia, Christians of every Church, forgetting lesser differences and distinctions, have assembled round the standard of the Bible, and have formed a bond of union, in their efforts to make known far and wide its blessed truths, proclaiming glory to GOD in the highest, on earth peace, good-will to men." ‖

In acknowledging a grant in aid of the Cologne Bible Society, his Excellency Count William Ernst, of Lippe, Presi-

* Hannah More's Christian Morals, Vol. II. p. 17.
† Eleventh Report of the British and Foreign Bible Society, p. 3.
‡ Ibid. Appendix, p. 149. Twelfth Report, Appendix, p. 84.
§ Thirteenth Report, Appendix, p. 5.
‖ Twelfth Report, p. xxxii.

dent of that institution, thus addresses the Right Honorable Lord Teignmouth:—

"I feel constrained, in the name of our society, to seize this opportunity of rendering your venerable society the most fervent thanks for this assistance, and of soliciting that communion of spirit, which, by that one principle of life which bids us to love one another, melts the different languages of the earth into one, understood by all. For this sentiment there exist no national limits. Even across the sea we reach out to you our fraternal hand, for uniting our exertions in that holy cause which the Author of every good gift, and the Fountain of light, will vouchsafe to bless." *

On this delightful theme it is difficult to limit the selection of extracts; but there are two others of so remarkable a character, as to justify their insertion.

The representative bishops and clergy in the Swedish Diet assembled at Stockholm, after expressing their "highest satisfaction at the institution of the Bible Society," and attending the meetings of the Committee, addressed an exhortatory letter to the clergy throughout the kingdom, inviting their active co-operation in this work of mercy. From this official document the following passage is selected:—

"When all Christian congregations, forgetting abstruse controversies, unanimously meet at the heavenly fountain, to drink and communicate its holy waters without human admixture, a great step seems to be taken towards '*the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*' By this charitable union the Church of Christ will rise as one harmonious whole; and the consequence will be, the universal revelation of the heavenly light." †

If the avowal of sentiments like these be animating and encouraging, how much is their value enhanced, when we find them supported and illustrated by a corresponding *conduct!* Too often the sense of gratitude, and the feeling of benevolence, resemble the "*early dew*," and evaporate in the expression of their existence. An opportunity, however, was afforded, at an early period of the society's history, to our American brethren, of evincing, that, so far as they were concerned, those feelings were not of an evanescent character, but the mature product of Christian principle. This, which has been appropriately termed a "splendid occurrence," is so well described by the Rev. John Owen, that it will be given in his own words:—

"In the month of June, 1813, a supply of Bibles and Testaments, destined by the British and Foreign Bible Society for the inhabitants of Nova Scotia, was captured by an American privateer, brought into Portland, and there sold and dispersed. As soon as this fact became known to the Bible Society of Massachusetts, a determination was taken, by the managers of that institution, to replace the value of the Bibles and Testaments; their

* Twelfth Report: Appendix, p. 130. † Owen's History, Vol. III. p. 76.

Striking illustration of this effect, in the instance of an American privateer.

secretary was directed to ascertain, by correspondence, to whom the amount of the property captured should be transmitted: and he was at the same time instructed, 'to express the deep regret of the Massachusetts Bible Society, that any occurrence should have so long detained so many copies of the Bible from their proper destination, and that to the other calamities of the disastrous war in which their country was engaged, should be added any interruption of the charitable and munificent labours of their fellow Christians in Great Britain, in diffusing the knowledge of the word of GOD.'

"In the mean time, a subscription was opened at Boston, to raise a sufficient sum, without diverting the funds of the Massachusetts Bible Society from their regular object; and such was the eagerness manifested, by the citizens of Boston,* to shake off from their country the disgrace of this transaction, that, in the course of a few days, double the sum required was contributed; and it might, as appears, have been easily increased to an almost indefinite amount. On the 9th of November, 1813, a bill for £.155 sterling, which covered the cost of the Bibles and Testaments, together with the expense of insurance upon them, was transmitted to the British and Foreign Bible Society, by the Secretary of the Massachusetts Bible Society, the Rev. S. Thatcher, who concludes his letter in the following very appropriate and excellent terms:—

"'We have thus done what we can to express our shame and regret at this occurrence, and to repair the evil which it has occasioned. We indulge the hope that we shall not again have to number it among the calamities of a war, in which we cannot cease to regret, that two nations, allied in feelings, habits, interests, language, and origin, should be engaged; that it counteracts, in any degree, the exertions of any of the charitable institutions of Great Britain; or tends to loosen or break that golden chain of mutual benevolence, which ought to bind together the disciples of CHRIST, of every nation and clime, without regard to political animosities.'" †

7. Among the collateral advantages of the British and Foreign Bible Society, there is one which the Christian may contemplate without a feeling of national vanity, while it increases his sense of individual responsibility, and his gratitude to that Almighty Protector who has preserved this highly-favoured country, to be a blessing to the whole earth. The respect and attachment of wise and good men, of every religious denomination, in Europe and America, have been secured to Great Britain, by the unbounded zeal and liberality of the Bible Society. The following evidences of this grati-

* This spirit of liberality was not confined to Boston: assurances were received from other quarters, of a desire to participate in the transaction. In particular, the Merimac Bible Society passed a vote to contribute 100 Bibles towards this object; but the largeness of the subscriptions in the town made it unnecessary to accept the proffered donation.

† Owen's History, Vol. II. p. 486, et seq. The address prefixed to the list of subscribers at Boston on this memorable occasion will be found in the Appendix to the Tenth Report of the British and Foreign Bible Society: it breathes, as has been well observed, "a spirit of genuine philanthropy, and conveys an instructive lesson to the whole population of Christendom."

fying result, selected from numerous testimonies to the same effect, will be read with interest.

On receiving intelligence that the formation of an "English Bible Society in Holland" was in agitation, the Committee of the Parent Institution encouraged it with a grant of 500 English Bibles, and 1000 English Testaments; and promised the sum of 500*l.* upon the eventual establishment of a National Bible Society for the United Netherlands:—

"When your Committee's correspondent mentioned this liberal offer in presence of three of the wealthiest citizens of Amsterdam, (to use his own emphatical words,) one of them shed tears, another seemed petrified with astonishment, and the third exclaimed, 'The English are a pattern to all nations!'"*

In their primary report, the Committee of the Swedish Bible Society thus address their constituents:—

"This sacred fire broke out first in England, a country so memorable for the warfare that has been carried on between liberty and tyranny—between religion and infidelity and immorality—a country which has suffered less, whether spiritually or politically, from the desolating storm than any other, because it seems to have been JEHOVAH'S object to spare it, in order to become a nursing mother, when the time was come for sending forth the knowledge of His will to all nations. What has been achieved by that country would require volumes to describe. The rest of Europe has caught the sacred flame from England; and there is scarcely a country but has got its Bible Society. Our own is one of its glorious monuments; and will hand down, to the latest age in which the Bible shall be held in due estimation, a memorial of the sacred feeling which prevails in that happy country."†

From no part of the world have those expressions of gratitude and affection been more frequent and ardent, than from Switzerland. The venerable Wyttenbach, member of the Ecclesiastical Council of Bern, may be considered the interpreter of the general sentiments of his countrymen, when he says,—

"My very heart and soul exult in the idea, that millions, in all the ends of the earth, bless England's noble promoters of the knowledge of the only MEDIATOR and SAVIOUR, while they make known to him their requests with prayer and praise. What shouts of joyful gratitude to GOD will ascend on that great day of recompense, when every one shall receive according to his works!"‡

And where is the British Christian, whose heart will not beat responsive to the following apostrophe of the Committee of the Lausanne Bible Society?—

* Tenth Report, p. 25. † Twelfth Report: Appendix, No. LXXVII.
‡ Fourteenth Report: Appendix, p. 187.

Remarkable proof of this feeling in the case of Dalecarlia.

"Thy real glory, Britain, that which shines in the present day with so much lustre, is, the glory of enlightening the whole world with the bright beams of the Gospel; of making the ocean, on whose bosom thou art so majestically seated, proclaim to the four quarters of the world, 'Behold your GOD!' and, by the force of mild persuasion, bringing all nations to reply, 'Henceforth He shall be our GOD, and we will rejoice because our eyes have seen his great salvation.' Yes, Britannia, it is to the zeal of thy children, that we owe this harmonious concert of all people, and nations, and languages: it is through thy indefatigable zeal, that the isles and the continents, the Nile and the Ganges, the Niger and the Euphrates, unite in chorus with the Thames and the Wolga, the Rhine, the Danube, and the Mississippi—'*And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Hallelujah, for the* LORD GOD OMNIPOTENT *reigneth!*'"*

"Our Huss," says an Hungarian correspondent, "was the faithful disciple and constant follower of your countryman, Wickliffe. From you the first rays of light of holy scripture penetrated to us. Now, after the lapse of four centuries, you are preparing again to confer upon us this gift, and to lay our gratitude under new obligations. I say these things from a deep sense of thankfulness; and all my countrymen will make the same acknowledgment." †

Nor do we find the glow of grateful attachment less ardent among the simple inhabitants of Finland; who thus conclude their filial address to the Parent Institution:—

"Blessing and honour be upon that Christian nation, who profess and advance the glorious sentiment, that the whole human race, whatever be their creed or however diversified their language, are brethren, children of the same gracious GOD and FATHER of us all, joint heirs of the same unfading inheritance and the same glorious salvation!" ‡

Here, again, it is delightful to find, that those, to whom the name of England is endeared by the labours of this Society, attest the sincerity of their attachment by their deeds. The pervading influence of British charity had reached the mountains of Dalecarlia, in the heart of Sweden; and the effect is thus simply and emphatically related by the lamented Dr. Brunnmark, late Chaplain to the Swedish Embassy at the Court of London:—

"After Sweden was forced to make peace with France, and declare against England, the usual war-prayer continued to be read in all the churches. The Dalecarlians asked, who were the enemies of the country: and when they were told that the English were meant by that name,—'No, no,' exclaimed they, 'the English are not our enemies; they are our best friends: they sent us corn to sow our land, when in our distress we had consumed even the grain intended for seed; they sent us medicine for our sick and wounded soldiers, and woollen blankets for our hospitals;—and, what is more than all, *they have lately sent us Bibles!!*' The Dalecarlians there-

* Second Report of the Committee of the Lausanne Bible Society.
† Owen's History, Vol. II. p. 97.
‡ Sixteenth Report: Appendix, p. 187.

upon requested of their ministers to discontinue the war-prayer; which soon afterwards was permitted to be done." *

8. Many instances of moral reformation will be introduced in the subsequent chapters, as the results of the distribution of Bibles and Testaments by Local Societies at home; but the following evidences of similar effects abroad, fall more appropriately within this division of the work.

That distinguished philanthropist, Professor Van Ess,

"has had the happiness to witness the most pleasing fruits of his benevolent exertions, in the improved habits of those among whom the Scriptures have been distributed. Not only individuals, but whole families, have been reformed by the perusal of them. These and other good effects are so visible, that they have produced conviction in some Catholic clergymen who were formerly hostile to the circulation of the Scriptures, or who entertained doubts at least as to its practical utility." †

Of the Swiss Bible Societies, Dr. Steinkopff observes:—

"All the Societies have received striking proofs that their extensive dissemination of the Scriptures has, in many instances, been attended with substantial good. The chains of sin are broken; drunkards become sober; piety increases; domestic order and happiness flourish." ‡

From America, we have the following striking testimony:—

"The advantages resulting from Bible Societies are indisputably great. We say *indisputably;* because we can appeal to experience, to facts, in support of the assertion. Even in a moral point of view, the position is correct. It has been actually found, that, in proportion to the dissemination of the Scriptures, a vicious has given place to a virtuous practice; idleness has been supplanted by industry, intemperance by sobriety, and general improvidence by prudent management. Thus, a powerful antidote is formed to pauperism, and all its direful train of miseries. The example of industry, sobriety, and prudent management, which is set by parents and masters, it may be reasonably supposed, will be copied, in some measure at least, by their children, and by their servants." §

Nor is the following evidence from the colony of Berbice less gratifying:—

"On an estate, where one of the principal people had learned to read, several of the slaves contributed their mite to purchase a Bible for the benefit of all upon the estate who would meet to hear it read. Several have since learned to read, and now possess Bibles. Their master, in the beginning, was against their learning; but his sentiments were soon changed: he saw thieves becoming honest, rebellious persons obedient, and, instead of meetings for dancing and revelling, heard of meetings for prayer and praise." ‖

To find that British soldiers, on a foreign station, derive similar advantages from the same source, is peculiarly satisfac-

* Owen's History, Vol. II. p. 322.
† Twelfth Report, p. 6. ‡ Ibid. Appendix, p. 145.
§ First Report of the Columbia Bible Society.
‖ Twelfth Report: Appendix, p. 90.

tory. A grant of Bibles and Testaments having been made by the Committee to the soldiers of the 59th regiment, then at Java, they were received with strong expressions of gratitude; and in a subsequent communication from some of them, it is observed:—

"Many of our companions, who once took delight in drinking down iniquity as the ox drinketh in water, are, through the grace of GOD, by reading the holy Bible, happily reclaimed from the error of their ways, and are now taking delight in retiring alone for the purpose of reading and studying the blessed word of GOD." *

9. Of the collateral advantages which have been remarked in our own country, none are more prominent than the desire manifested by children and adults to learn to read. This subject will be further adverted to in the chapters which treat of Associations; and the following extracts will furnish a sufficient indication that similar effects are produced abroad.

A correspondent in Germany remarks:—

"Old men, who had never learned to read, are now desirous to learn, that they, in their advanced age, may find consolation from the holy scriptures." †

And the Committee of the Russian Bible Society, quoting the language of a correspondent in Liefland, observe:—

"One of the benefits flowing from our association, which was originally neither contemplated nor expected, is, that many hundreds of the neighbouring children have learned to read; and that the peasants in twenty-three places in our parish have voluntarily adopted the plan of assembling, every other Sunday evening, such children as can read with propriety, and have a Testament, for the express purpose of reading a few chapters. I have likewise made a similar regulation in the school under my inspection, which I constantly visit, and in which, during the winter in particular, the children are made acquainted with the sacred volume: and it has afforded me the most sensible gratification to witness the unexpected progress which they have made in scriptural knowledge, as well as in singing, writing, and ciphering. A better spirit prevails amongst the Livonian youth of our parish since we began to distribute the word of GOD more plentifully; even the fathers of families remain more at home, to hear their children read to them in the best of books while at their work." ‡

10. That the Bible Society has operated as a barrier against the progress of infidelity in our own country, we shall have abundant evidence, in considering the tendency and effects of Bible Associations: that it has repelled the same poisonous current on the continent, will be manifest from the following testimonies.

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* Thirteenth Report: Appendix, p. 22. † Ibid. p. 33.
‡ Sixteenth Report: Appendix, p. 144 et seq.

Circulation of the Holy Scriptures a barrier to the progress of infidelity.

From the Rev. Dr. Dœring, Chaplain to the Court of Saxony:—

"Blessed be GOD for having made the British and Foreign Bible Society a light shining into all lands! I am confident, that this growing institution will prove a powerful barrier against the anti-christian spirit which had made such awful progress." *

That the opinion of this enlightened clergyman was correct, the declaration of the Rev. Professor Staendlin, of Göttingen, affords a gratifying proof:—

"The word of God is obtaining its former authority and influence in Germany, triumphing over the systems of a spurious philosophy, and the efforts of a merely profane science, which, while it abounds in criticisms, and glories in philological learning, loses sight of the very essence of religion." †

In the address to the public, the Directors of the Potsdam Bible Society observe:—

"Great Britain has, by steady perseverance, in a great degree promoted the *civil* deliverance of Germany: for her *spiritual* redemption from infidelity, she will be indebted to the same benefactress."

Nor were these sentiments confined to ecclesiastics;—nobles and statesmen, of exalted rank and extensive influence, have participated in them. His Excellency, Count Hohenthal, the Minister for Religion to the King of Saxony, thus addresses Lord Teignmouth, in his official capacity as President of the Saxon Bible Society:—

"I feel constrained to adore GOD, that, in our age, in which infidelity has made such awful progress, the idea originated in Great Britain, to form Bible Societies, by which so powerful a barrier has been opposed to its destructive influence: and I cannot but thank GOD that I also am privileged to be his humble instrument, in propagating the Bible among the poorer classes of the people in Saxony." ‡

Similar in effect was the language of his Excellency Baron Rosenblad, a nobleman of the highest rank in Sweden, and Minister for the Home Department; from whose admirable speech, on accepting the office of President of the Stockholm Society, the following passage is extracted:—

"We have outlived the awful period, when the doctrine of the atonement of CHRIST was shrouded in darkness. Mournful was the lot of those who confessed his name. For almost an entire century, did infidelity, with unblushing front, deride the revealed will of GOD, and either openly or secretly undermine the sacred foundations of the gospel doctrine. The deleterious poison, having worked its way among what are called the most

* Eleventh Report: Appendix, p. 105.
† Sixteenth Report, p. 38.
‡ Owen's History, Vol. III. p. 31.

The abolition and mitigation of slavery promoted by circulating the Bible.

enlightened nations of Europe, and established its influence in their higher circles, soon spread abroad among the mass of the people, and rolled on in fearful torrents of iniquity, carrying with it a sweeping destruction wherever it went. Gospel light is dawning again on those nations where the shadow of death sat almost enthroned, and barriers are raising against '*the abomination of desolation.*'" *

11. From two opposite quarters of the globe, we have received concurrent and simultaneous evidence, that, to the list of indirect benefits, we may add the partial abolition of slavery in one portion of the eastern hemisphere, and the mitigation of its evils in the west. The Honorable Sir Alexander Johnston, Chief Justice of *Ceylon*, thus expresses himself, in reference to the former effect:—

"The assistance which the Bible Society in England has given the friends of Christianity in this island, has enabled the latter, as I have frequently written to you, to circulate the Scriptures among the people of the country in a manner which was never done before; and I attribute the unanimity with which all classes have resolved to put an end to domestic slavery, to the effect which has been produced upon their minds, and upon their feelings, by those doctrines which are contained in the Scriptures, and which, from their simplicity, are intelligible to every description of the human race, whether European or Asiatic." †

And an intelligent correspondent of the society, in *Berbice*, observes:—

"What a blessed book is the Bible! It taught the Commissioners of the Crown properly how to manage negroes in their work, without whips and chains, while under the British government; of which I have been a witness: but some of their new masters, who despise the Bible, and have taken it away from their unfortunate slaves, have completely restored whips and chains." ‡

12. It has been already observed, that the Bible Society has created an increased desire to possess the holy scriptures: but it should not be forgotten, that this desire is not confined to those who are the immediate objects of its benevolence: a *general* disposition to "*search the Scriptures*" has been excited, and is progressively extending, of which the augmented demand for copies, both abroad and at home, is a satisfactory evidence. The Committee of more than one Bible Society in the United States of *America* pointedly observe, "that since their existence in that country, the sale of Bibles by the trade has considerably increased." §

* See the whole of this speech in Owen's History, Vol. II. p. 370 et seq. where it is justly characterized as "not more remarkable for ardent piety, than for just conceptions of religious truth and enlightened views of Christian policy."

† Fourteenth Report: Appendix, No. CXVIII.

‡ Thirteenth Report: Appendix, No. CVIII. § Eighth Report, p. xvii.

The demand for the Scriptures increasing both at home and abroad.

From the *Netherlands*, it is stated, that,

"so eager a disposition has been manifested by many members of the Catholic communion, who use the Dutch language, to obtain a Bible in their vernacular tongue, that two booksellers have severally undertaken, on their own accounts, to publish, the one a Dutch translation of the whole Bible from the Vulgate, and the other a similar translation of Van Ess's New Testament."*

One of the most remarkable facts, in confirmation of these sentiments, relates to the celebrated Canstein Institution, founded at Halle in the year 1710; and is thus reported by the Committee of the Parent Society:—

"In consequence of a representation made by Dr. Niemeyer, Chancellor of the University of Halle, a descendant of the celebrated Dr. Frank, founder of the Orphan-house at that place, that the Canstein Bible Institution, of which Dr. Niemeyer is a director, had exhausted its funds by the large sale of Bibles and Testaments at reduced prices; and that neither its resources, nor its machinery, were sufficient to enable it to keep pace with the demands which had accumulated upon it: your Committee, having seriously considered all the circumstances of the case, presented this institution, to which Germany and Christendom owe so many obligations, with a set of stereotype plates for a beautiful octavo Bible; and added to this grant two Stanhope presses, that no delay may occur in satisfying the numerous and importunate applications by which that ancient and most useful establishment for printing the Scriptures is so greatly embarrassed."†

The preceding observations will be strengthened by the further extraordinary fact, that, "within the last two years, a single printer at Leipzig has stereotyped the Scriptures in three sizes, and has actually disposed of seven sets of plates for two of those editions, to different societies and printers in Germany."‡

That a similar result has been witnessed in our own country, is a fact which may be established by official and unquestionable documents, to which reference will now be made.

Until September 1805, no Bibles and Testaments were issued by the British and Foreign Bible Society, the Universities not having completed their stereotype editions. If, therefore, we compare the aggregate number of copies printed at Oxford and Cambridge during the last fifteen years, with the total number which issued from their presses within a similar period preceding the establishment of the society, we shall be enabled to ascertain the extent of the increased demand now under consideration.

* Sixteenth Report, p. xxviii. † Ibid. p. l. ‡ Ibid. p. xlv. et seq.

Comparative issues of Bibles and Testaments at Oxford and Cambridge.

The total numbers of Bibles and Testaments printed at the two Universities, in the fifteen years ending 31st of December 1804, were—

At Oxford	773,000
At Cambridge	509,000
Total . .	1,282,000

And the respective numbers printed in the fifteen years, ending 31st of December, 1819, were—

At Oxford	1,618,000
At Cambridge	1,557,680
Total . . .	3,175,680
Deducting from this total, the number of copies printed by the Universities for account of the British and Foreign Bible Society . . .	1,243,517
The remainder, printed for other societies, or for sale to the public, is	1,932,163

which exceeds the number printed in the former period, by 650,163 copies, or more than one half; and establishes the fact of an increased demand, to this extent, during the last fifteen years.

The following extract furnishes satisfactory evidence, that no inconsiderable portion of this extraordinary supply was required by individual purchasers. It is taken from an account laid on the table of the House of Commons, of the number and value of books printed within the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, which have been furnished to booksellers for sale, during the seven years ending December 1816:—it appears that there were sold, in

	Bibles.	Testaments.	Total.
1810	42,288	63,984	106,272
1811	37,292	62,045	99,337
1812	50,611	79,408	130,019
1813	67,585	50,344	117,929
1814	60,816	62,167	122,983
1815	66,388	64,229	130,617
1816	65,183	81,109	146,292

There is every reason to believe, that if returns were procured from the King's printers, the result would be still

more conclusive of the gratifying fact, that, notwithstanding the vast additional number of Bibles and Testaments thrown into circulation by means of the society, and of kindred institutions, the number purchased by individuals has considerably increased. Nor is it immaterial to observe, that, as means were specially provided for the supply of the labouring classes, it is but reasonable to conclude, that the greater part of these copies have been purchased by persons in the higher and middle ranks of life.

To these statements, another fact may be added, demonstrative of the beneficial tendency and effects of Bible Associations, which were first projected and established in the year 1812:—*In the eight years which have subsequently elapsed, a greater number of Bibles and Testaments have been printed at the two Universities, than in the twenty-two preceding years.*

The preceding observations will derive additional strength from the following summary account of the proceedings of "The Naval and Military Bible Society," established in the year 1780:—In the *thirty-one* years, ending in May 1811, the total number of Bibles and Testaments issued by that excellent institution, was about 47,000. But in the *nine* following years, ending in May 1820, the number distributed was about 91,000, and the annual issues now average about 9000 copies.

13. Of the many other collateral benefits of the Bible Society, there are only two to which a distinct reference will now be made—the extraordinary impulse communicated to kindred institutions, and the increased circulation of the Book of Common Prayer, and other valuable publications. These are effects of no ordinary excellence; and are so far identified, as to justify their consideration under the same head.

It was, indeed, a natural expectation, that, while additional facilities were thus given to the distribution of that sacred volume, which the various denominations of the Christian world regard as the standard of their common faith, a corresponding desire should be excited in each, to possess that particular formulary to which education, habit, or conscientious preference had attached a value, inferior only to that with which the holy scriptures are regarded. That such has been the effect with regard to the Liturgy of the Church of England, will now be demonstrated.

By the official document which has been already quoted, it appears, that of the number of copies of the Book of Common

Great increase in the sale of the Book of Common Prayer.

Prayer, printed at Oxford and Cambridge, and furnished to booksellers for sale, during the seven years ending December 1816, there were sold, in

1810	47,889 copies
1811	41,951
1812	74,622
1813	67,809
1814	69,445
1815	88,233
1816	94,004

And the author is enabled to state, that the aggregate number of Prayer Books printed at the two Universities in the fifteen years ending 31st December 1819, exceeds, by 134,800 copies, the total number printed during the preceding fifteen years; and that nearly as many copies have been printed during the last eight years as in the preceding twenty. This is a striking illustration of one of the many beneficial effects resulting from the establishment of national and other schools, which, in connection with Bible Associations, have excited an increased desire to possess and read the Book of Common Prayer.

This increasing demand for the Liturgy, and other authorised publications of the Established Church, led to the formation of the "PRAYER BOOK AND HOMILY SOCIETY," instituted in May 1812. From that period to the 31st of March 1820, the following have been issued from its Depository in London:—

Number of Books of Common Prayer . .	69,063
Psalters	8,050
Homilies, &c.	457,755

The following statement, compiled from the Annual Reports of "THE SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING CHRISTIAN KNOWLEDGE," affords a further and more gratifying illustration of the subject; and exhibits a striking evidence of the increased means and extended usefulness of that venerable institution.

It should be premised, that "the Society for promoting Christian Knowledge" was instituted in the year 1699; and in the year 1810 adopted the auxiliary system, by the establishment of *District Committees*.

"The British and Foreign Bible Society" was formed, it will be recollected, in the year 1804; and, in 1809, *Auxiliary Societies* in connection with it were first established.

Comparative operations of the Society for promoting Christian Knowledge.

Comparative View of the Receipts, Subscribers, and Issues of the Society for promoting Christian Knowledge, in the undermentioned Years:

	1804.	1810.	1817.	1819.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Amount of Donations and Legacies	377 14 6	1,177 1 0	5,968 17 10	6,893 1 1
Annual Subscriptions	2,549 3 0	3,033 0 0	11,684 10 3	10,529 5 3
Receipts for Books sent out	4,659 5 11	6,229 14 2	21,784 19 5	23,251 11 1
Gross Receipts.	12,390 1 8	16,053 15 10	60,221 17 0	55,939 8 8
Number of Subscribers	2,000	3,560	12,000	† 14,000
New Subscribers	209	323	3,000	† 1,000
Bibles issued...	7,508	9,533	*23,627	32,036
Testaments & Psalters ditto.	5,820	15,169	56,605	53,803
Books of Common Prayer	14,230	19,136	89,498	91,589
Homilies, Tracts, and other Books	154,609	190,052	1,049,714	1,427,808

14. This brief and rapid sketch of the direct and collateral results of the institution cannot be more appropriately closed, than in the just and animated language of the Fourteenth Report:—

"If to have roused the attention of a thoughtless world to the momentous concerns of eternity, and to the study of that word which reveals the only way to peace and salvation;—if to have supplied the ignorant and inquiring with the means of gratifying their desire for spiritual and life-giving knowledge;—if to have moderated the prejudices, and conciliated the affections of Christians of every denomination, and to have taught them the wisdom and the duty of keeping the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace;—if effects like these deserve to exalt and endear the instrument by which they have been produced, the British and Foreign Bible Society may reasonably challenge no common rank in the esteem and the gratitude of mankind."

* Exclusive of the Society's Family Bible, of which nearly 16,000 copies were sold in two years.

† These numbers are estimated, as the Report for 1819 does not specify the precise number of subscribers.

SECTION XIII.

THE HIBERNIAN BIBLE SOCIETY.

As this institution could not, with propriety, be classed under the head of *Foreign* National Societies, and does not come under the denomination of an *Auxiliary*; this appears to be the most proper place for its introduction.

Identified in its design, and intimately connected in its details with the Parent Establishment, it acquires, from the scene of its labours, the magnitude of its proceedings, and the peculiar features of its constitution, an importance which justifies this arrangement.

1. Before entering on the immediate subject of this section, it is due to the Christian liberality and feeling of the sister island to observe, that a society was formed in Dublin, in the year 1792, under the title of "The Dublin Association for discouraging Vice, and promoting the Knowledge and Practice of the Christian Religion."—With such an object in view, the distribution of the Scriptures necessarily became a principal object of their attention; and with a zeal that can neither be too highly commended, nor too closely imitated, they expressed their hope, in a printed address, "*that effectual provision would be made that no house, no cabin, in the whole kingdom, in which there was a single person who could read, should be destitute of the holy scriptures.*"

In an official communication to the British and Foreign Bible Society, dated October 11, 1804, the Secretaries of this "Association" state, that "between the commencement of the association in 1794, and the 5th of October 1804, there had been distributed, at reduced prices, (besides Prayer Books, Tracts, &c.)

Bibles	16,725	at an expense to the Society
Testaments . . .	20,355	of £.2380. 12*s.* 3½*d.*"

In this letter, it is further stated, "that the demand for Bibles daily increases so much, that the funds of the association are unable to supply it."

In confirmation of this latter fact, the following extract of a letter from a clergyman in Ireland may be appropriately introduced:—

"I am sorry to mention, that there is no part of the United Kingdom in greater want of Bibles than the southern part of this kingdom, with which alone I am acquainted. As far as I have been able to discover, not more than one-third of the Protestant families have Bibles; and the Roman-

Catholic families, which are at least eight to one, have scarcely a Bible among them, perhaps not one in five hundred families, and no exertions making to distribute them, except by a few clergymen, who go not beyond their own parishes, and those very few indeed." *

2. The "Dublin Bible Society" was instituted in the year 1806; and in the following year assumed the designation of "The Hibernian Bible Society." The formation of a similar institution at Cork almost immediately followed; and both received that liberal assistance from the Parent Society, which the peculiar circumstances of Ireland so loudly claimed.

Of the absolute necessity which existed for these and similar institutions, the following melancholy proofs may be adduced:—

Extract from the Report of the Hibernian Bible Society for 1808.

"During the time your Committee have been in office, they have had repeated proofs of the necessity and usefulness of the society. A very general desire to purchase and read the Bible prevails in Ireland; and yet, in several parts of the country, the Bible cannot be obtained, at least by the lower classes. A letter from a clergyman, in a very populous district of the north of Ireland, stated to your Committee, that, in his neighbourhood, the Bible could not be procured *for any money*. From this circumstance the society may judge what must be the case in those parts of the land where the people are less instructed, and where, of course, it might be expected that books would be very scarce."

This general statement is illustrated by the following fact:—

"A young man, aged about twenty-one, was very early bound to a linen-weaver. Having learned to read, and a New Testament happening to lie neglected in his master's house, it became the constant companion of his leisure hours. His apprenticeship being finished, he proposed going to see his brother, a militia-man quartered in Castlebar, in the county of Mayo; and begged of his master the New Testament, as the reward of his faithful services. The master, knowing his attachment to the book, refused giving it on any other terms than his further servitude for six months. The young man, judging that a Testament might be procured on easier terms at Castlebar, declined this; and, when arrived there, made diligent inquiry in all the shops to find one to purchase; but, alas! in vain: not a Testament was for sale in this, the principal town of a populous county in Ireland! He could not live without it. The Testament, the much-regretted Testament, never was absent from his thoughts. He could dream of nothing else, and frequently awoke to regret that his desire of having it in his possession was only a pleasing delusion. Finding no rest, he returned to his master, and agreed to serve him half a year for the Testament." †

These reports, from different quarters of Ireland, were confirmed by an eloquent writer; who observed,—"You

* First Report of the British and Foreign Bible Society: Appendix, No. XIII. and XIV.

† Eighth Report of the British and Foreign Bible Society: Appendix, No. LVI.

might have travelled from one extremity of the kingdom to the other, and, avoiding the chief towns, visit every cabin in your way, without finding, perhaps, *three hundred* perfect Bibles among *three millions* of people. I speak," he adds, "from personal knowledge of the country." The reader will be better prepared to estimate the nature of this deplorable deficiency, when he learns, on the same authority, that "you cannot delight a poor Irish peasant so much with any thing you can bestow upon him, as with a present of a Bible: he hides it in his cabin, and reads it with an eagerness that cannot be conceived."*

3. GENERAL RULES *of the* HIBERNIAN BIBLE SOCIETY.

I. The designation of this society shall be, "THE HIBERNIAN BIBLE SOCIETY;" the sole object of which is, to encourage a wider circulation of the Scriptures in Ireland.

II. The copies of the Scriptures to be circulated by the society shall be of the authorised version, unaccompanied by any note or comment.

III. Each subscriber of one guinea annually shall be a member.

IV. Ministers of all denominations, who shall transmit annual collections from their congregations, shall be members.

V. Each subscriber of ten guineas at one time shall be a member for life.

VI. A Committee of twenty-one members, resident in or near Dublin, shall be annually appointed to transact the business of the society; shall fill up whatever vacancies may occur in their body; and shall be empowered to make by-laws for the regulation of their own proceedings. Fourteen members of the Committee shall be eligible for re-election the ensuing year.

VII. The Committee shall add to their number such members resident in the country as they shall judge expedient.

VIII. The annual meeting of the society shall be held on the last Thursday but one in April, when the committee, treasurer, and secretaries, shall be chosen, the accounts presented, and the proceedings of the foregoing year reported.

IX. The Committee shall meet on the first and third Tuesday of every month, or oftener; shall call extraordinary general meetings of the society, when expedient; shall, in the intervals between the general meetings, appoint all officers of the society; and shall be charged with procuring for the society suitable patronage.

X. The Treasurer and Secretaries for the time being shall be members of the Committee.

XI. The minutes of every General and Committee Meeting shall be signed by the chairman.

XII. Each member of the society shall be entitled, under the direction of the Committee, to purchase Bibles and Testaments at the society's prices, which shall be as low as possible.

XIII. It is the desire of this society to co-operate with every other society engaged in circulating the Scriptures in Ireland.

4. Whoever takes the trouble to collate these regulations with those of the British and Foreign Bible Society, will per-

* Letter to Dr. Gaskin, quoted in Dealtry's "Vindication," p. 45, first edit.

ceive the points of difference, especially in reference to the first rule, *which limits the operations of the Institution to Ireland*. It is ardently hoped, and may reasonably be expected, that, when the wants of that country shall be adequately supplied, her characteristic zeal and benevolence will prompt her to become the fellow-helper of Great Britain, in the great work of civilizing and evangelizing the human race. This hope derives additional strength from the recent material improvement in the system of the Hibernian Bible Society, which is now assimilated, as nearly as the peculiar circumstances of Ireland and the limited nature of the society admit, to that of the Parent Institution.

5. By-Laws *of the* General Committee, *or* Regulations *for conducting business with the* Auxiliary Societies, *&c.* *

I. All annual subscribers or benefactors shall be allowed to purchase, within the year, books to the full amount of their subscriptions or donations, at a reduction of 50 per cent. from the cost price; and to any amount further, at cost price.

II. Benefactors of ten guineas, not purchasing according to Regulation I., may purchase annually to the same amount with annual subscribers of one guinea; and benefactors of 50*l.* to the same amount with annual subscribers of five guineas; and so on, to benefactors of any larger amount.—This Rule shall not be considered as affecting the privileges of the present life-subscribers, but only as regulating the privileges of future benefactors.

III. As the nature of the connexion of the Branch Societies with the Parent Society will, after these Rules come to be acted upon, be altered, and become similar to the connexion of the societies auxiliary to the British and Foreign Bible Society with that society, it will be expedient that the name *Branch Society* be relinquished, and that the name *Auxiliary Society* be substituted; the name *Branch* to be appropriated to extensions of Auxiliary Societies in towns or villages within the district of the Auxiliary Society, and holding immediate communication with it.

IV. Auxiliary Societies, and Associations in immediate connexion with the Parent Society, shall obtain their stock of Bibles and Testaments exclusively from the General Depository, and shall be entitled to receive Bibles and Testaments, estimated at cost prices, to the full amount of all money remitted by them, whether collected from contributions, or from the sale of books: and they shall be requested annually to devote to the general purposes of the society such part of their funds as they may be able to afford.

V. It shall be competent for any Auxiliary Society to apply for a gratuitous grant of books; and for the General Committee, if they see fit, to grant it.

VI. To enable the General Committee to make gratuitous grants of Bibles and Testaments to those districts of the country which are most necessitous, it shall appeal to the Christian charity of its subscribers, and of those Auxiliary Societies and Associations that are in more highly favoured districts, to leave a balance annually in its hands for that purpose; submitting it, however, entirely to their own judgment.

* The term "Parent Society," throughout these By-Laws, refers to the Hibernian Bible Society.

By-Laws of the Committee of the Hibernian Bible Society.

VII. When an order for books is given by any Auxiliary Society, it shall be fulfilled, as a matter of course, to the amount of the money remitted, provided the society have the description of books ordered. But when a gratuitous grant of books is required, the Committee shall transmit a list of queries to be answered, and the request shall come before them in the form of a memorial.

VIII. The Auxiliary Societies shall each have districts of country assigned to them, to be determined chiefly by themselves, but under the advice of the General Committee; from which districts they shall take their names, and in which they shall respectively be entrusted with the whole management of the society's business—as, the establishment of depositories, the circulation of the Scriptures, either by sale or gratuitous distribution, the fixing of prices, defraying of local expenses, &c.; and so long as any Auxiliary Society does not exceed in its demands the money remitted by it, the General Committee shall not interfere with it in these respects, otherwise than in the way of kind inquiry, exhortation, advice, and assistance: but when grants of the Scriptures are required, the Committee shall feel themselves at liberty to make what stipulations they may judge expedient.

IX. It shall be recommended to Auxiliary and Branch Societies to give to their subscribers and benefactors the same privileges which are given by the General Committee to subscribers and benefactors of the Parent Society.

X. The Committee shall use every practicable means to procure the formation of *Bible Associations*, and *Penny-a-week Societies*, in aid of the society. When such an Association is formed within the district of any Auxiliary Society, it may be connected with it on the same general principles on which the Auxiliary Societies are connected with the Parent Society: and, unless it choose to form a depository of its own, the subscribers to the Association may enjoy the privilege of purchasing at the depository of the Auxiliary Society, on the same terms with its own subscribers. Auxiliary Societies may make gratuitous grants to Associations, on the same principles on which the General Committee may make them to Auxiliary Societies. If an Association be formed in any district where there is no Auxiliary Society; or if, where there is one, any circumstances may exist that would render it more expedient that it should correspond immediately with the Parent Society; it may be united to the Parent Society on the same footing as if it were united to an Auxiliary Society.

XI. The General Committee shall endeavour to keep up a stock of such descriptions of Bibles and Testaments as the Auxiliary Societies and subscribers may require.

XII. Auxiliary Societies shall be requested to transmit their lists of subscriptions and donations, actually received, to the General Committee; and these lists, if desired, the General Committee shall publish, separately and literally, in the Annual Report. Public notice shall be given on the report, annually, that such lists, intended for publication, must be transmitted previously to the first of March in each year.

XIII. The General Committee shall use all its endeavours to procure such information as may interest the Committees of the Auxiliary Societies and Associations, and assist and stimulate them in their duties; and transmit it promptly and regularly to them.

XIV. The General Committee shall deliver all books, sold or granted by them, free of expense of carriage within the city of Dublin.

6. In the spirit of these regulations, an address was printed and liberally circulated, calling the attention of the

public to the magnitude and importance of the object; suggesting a plan of operations for extending the Auxiliary System; and inviting persons of all denominations to come forward and carry it into execution. Of the beneficial effects which have already resulted from those judicious measures, the following extract from the Sixteenth Report of the British and Foreign Bible Society is a satisfactory evidence:—

"Ireland has proceeded on the system of improved organization, noticed in your last report; and the result has been, that, in the course of the last year, the Hibernian Bible Society has doubled its circulation of the Scriptures, formed new Auxiliary Societies, revived old ones which had become inactive, and witnessed generally the manifest indications of great and increasing prosperity."

The importance of those measures, and of the results to which they have led, will be more fully appreciated by referring to the language of the Committee in their report for 1810:—

"The demands for Bibles and Testaments during the last year were so great, that, had it not been for the liberality of the British and Foreign Bible Society, the Committee would have been compelled to put a stop to their proceedings."

Now that the resources of Ireland are called forth, and that plans are devised for the more general establishment of Auxiliary Societies, and especially of Bible Associations, throughout the country, it cannot be doubted that she will not only meet the exigencies of her own population, but, ere long, be in a condition to contribute her assistance to the general purposes of the British and Foreign Bible Society.

7. The number of Auxiliary Societies in connexion with the Hibernian Bible Society, is thirty-five; of which fourteen are County Societies:—and of Bible Associations, twenty-eight. The total number of Bibles and Testaments issued, from the formation of the society to the 31st of March 1820, is 254,048. In the list of patronage, it is highly satisfactory to observe, the Lord Primate of Ireland, the Archbishops of Dublin and Tuam, and nine other distinguished prelates of the Irish Bench. The officers consist of a treasurer, three secretaries, an assistant secretary, and collector.

The following extracts, to which many other similar testimonies might be added, will demonstrate the beneficial effects of this institution:—

From the Report of the Sligo Bible Society:—

"The word of God has forced its way into the most unenlightened parts of your county. Villages, glens, and mountains, denied by nature the

Beneficial Results.

cheering beams of the sun, have received ample compensation, in having their hitherto unpierced clouds of ignorance dispelled by the rays of the Gospel. The Bible has now become the class-book of the hedge-school, and supplanted those foolish legends which poisoned the minds of youth. The children read no other book; and must necessarily imbibe all their ideas of good and evil from this pure fountain of morality, this unerring standard of right and wrong. The attention of the parents has been arrested, by the reading of their children at home; and in many places they have attended, with adults, the evening schools which have been opened for instructing persons prohibited by their daily occupations from giving up any other portion of their time. Nor is this the only effect of the circulation of the word of GOD. Your Committee have been credibly informed, that, in several remote villages of your county, numbers of persons, anxious to receive Scriptural knowledge, meet together after the close of the evening schools, not, as formerly, to witness scenes of idle amusement, drunkenness, and gaming, or to enter into illegal combinations and dangerous conspiracies, but to hear the sacred volume read aloud to them, and to listen to those sublime precepts which inculcate love to their neighbours, loyalty to their king, and reverence to their GOD." *

From the Ninth Report of the Hibernian Bible Society:—

"Your Committee could mention entire villages, formerly the abodes of idleness and immorality, *now* exhibiting the pleasing aspect of industry and decorum. The blasphemer fears an oath;—the Sabbath-breaker respects the holy day of rest;—the drunkard is sober;—and he that stole, steals no more, 'but labours with his hands, to provide things honest in the sight of all men.'

"A striking proof of the salutary effect produced by the circulation of the holy scriptures, has recently come to the knowledge of your Committee, and deserves particular notice:—'A middle aged man, who had been lately expelled from a yeomanry corps in consequence of expressing rebellious sentiments, has, since that disgraceful occurrence, been so changed by reading the Bible, that he is reported by the clergyman of his parish to be *now* a person in whose loyalty and integrity he can place the fullest confidence.'"

Although not immediately connected with the direct object of this work, it would be an act of the greatest injustice to conclude a section appropriated to IRELAND, without a distinct reference to two other institutions, which have essentially contributed to the moral and religious improvement of that country, by the circulation of the holy scriptures.

These are, "*The London Hibernian Society*, for establishing Schools, and circulating the Holy Scriptures in Ireland," formed in the year 1806; and "*The Sunday-School Society for Ireland*," established in 1810.

The former has now under its care 529 schools, containing 58,202 scholars; and is only prevented by the state of its

* Twelfth Report of the British and Foreign Bible Society: Appendix, No. LXXX.

funds, from extending its operations in a fourfold degree.* The number of Sunday schools connected with the latter institution, is 1091, containing 113,525 scholars; and its sphere of usefulness is progressively enlarging.† To both of these institutions, the British and Foreign Bible Society has frequently afforded the most efficient aid, by grants of the holy scriptures for the use of their schools, to an extent exceeding, in the aggregate, *seventy thousand copies.*

SECTION XIV.

GENERAL REMARKS.

1. The reader, who has thus far traced the system of the British and Foreign Bible Society, and the more prominent results of its operations, will be prepared to acknowledge the justice of that sentiment, with the expression of which this chapter commenced; and be disposed to ascribe the origin, the extent, and the success of the institution, to HIM alone, "*who is wonderful in counsel, and excellent in working.*" It has been well observed, that "the seed from which this fruitful plant has sprung, was sown in a season apparently little favourable to its growth and fertility: but, nourished by the secret influences of Heaven, it has arisen and flourished amidst storms and convulsions; extending its loaded boughs to the ends of the earth, and offering the blessings of shade and refreshment to the weary and afflicted of every nation under heaven. It is still putting forth fresh shoots, in almost every direction; and proclaiming, to all who are hungering and thirsting after righteousness, "*Fear not*"—"*for the tree beareth her fruit.*"‡

Next to the protecting hand of Divine Providence, the success of the society is attributable to its strict adherence to the two great and fundamental principles of the institution—the distribution of the Scriptures *alone;* and the admission of persons of all religious denominations to a participation of its privileges and its labours. But it is equally evident, that no inconsiderable portion of this success may be traced to the SYSTEM of the Society, and to those improvements of it which have from time to time been adopted. Whether this system

* See Fourteenth Report of the London "Hibernian Society."

† See Tenth Report of "the Sunday School Society for Ireland."

‡ Tenth Report of the British and Foreign Bible Society, p. lvii.

have yet attained that degree of perfection of which it is susceptible, is a question worthy the consideration of every National Bible Society; and any suggestions in furtherance of this object will be treated with indulgence.

2. The distribution of the Scriptures throughout the world, may appear to be a simple design; and so far as the term indicates a singleness of object, it is so: but the extraordinary fact, that three hundred and fifty years had elapsed from the invention of the art of printing, before any adequate measures were devised for the attainment of this object, is a conclusive proof that its importance was not duly appreciated; or, that the means of its accomplishment, if suggested, were deemed insufficient. Those means are now happily provided; but it is evident that the superintendence which a national institution can exercise over their operation, must be of a very general, though highly beneficial nature. The system of the society is founded on the sub-division of labour; and this principle, in its practical application, descends from the Parent Committee to its Auxiliaries and Branches, and thence to their Associations, until it is brought down to the actual dissemination of the Scriptures among the people.

A National Bible Society, if properly organised, and its executive details conducted by Sub-Committees, as recommended in Section II., will find ample employment in the exercise of this superintendence; which may be divided into the following branches:—

I. The employment of Agents.
II. The establishment and assistance of Auxiliary Societies and Associations.
III. The publication of important and interesting information.
IV. The means of insuring a regular and adequate supply of Bibles and Testaments.
V. The correct appropriation of the funds placed at its disposal.

On each of which a few suggestions will be submitted.

3. The numerous and important advantages of judicious and well-qualified *agents*, cannot be too strongly impressed on the attention of the Committees of Bible Institutions. This subject has been amply illustrated in Section VII., as regards the foreign operations of the Parent Society: and the following instances will afford sufficient evidence of the value of domestic agency, in promoting the organization of local establishments.

Comparative State of different Auxiliary Societies.

The READING Auxiliary Society was established in March 1809; and was re-organized in April 1816. The following are the comparative results:—

In *Seven* Years under former System:		In *Four* Years under improved System:	
Total Amount collected	£.2066 18 7	Total Amount collected	£.2435 12 1
Ditto remitted to Parent Society	1942 7 5	Ditto remitted to Parent Society	2290 15 0
1723 Bibles and Testaments distributed.		3805 Bibles and Testaments distributed.	

The LIVERPOOL Auxiliary Society was established in March 1811; and was re-organized in January 1818. The following are the comparative results:—

In *Seven* Years under former System:		In *Two* Years under improved System:	
Total Amount collected	£.8917 10 8	Total Amount collected	£.6196 7 0
Ditto remitted to Parent Society	7722 1 10	Ditto remitted to Parent Society	5937 18 1
21,213 Bibles and Testaments distributed.		15,409 Bibles and Testaments distributed.	

The NORTHAMPTONSHIRE Auxiliary Society was established in May 1812; and was re-organized in October 1817. The following are the comparative results:—

In *Five* Years under former System:		In *Three* Years under improved System:	
Total Amount collected	£.4702 8 3	Total Amount collected	£.4123 7 9
Ditto remitted to Parent Society	4010 0 0	Ditto remitted to Parent Society	3934 3 11
8070 Bibles and Testaments distributed.		10,004 Bibles and Testaments distributed.	

The PLYMOUTH, &c. Auxiliary Society was established in July 1811; and was re-organized in November 1818. The following are the comparative results:—

In *Seven* Years under former System:		In *Two* Years under improved System:	
Total Amount collected	£.2517 7 5	Total Amount collected	£.3317 18 9
Ditto remitted to Parent Society	2275 7 10	Ditto remitted to Parent Society	2998 16 5
5230 Bibles and Testaments distributed.		6046 Bibles and Testaments distributed.	

The VALE-OF-AYLESBURY Auxiliary Society was established in August 1815; and re-organized in October 1817. The following are the comparative results:—

In *Two* Years under former System:		In *Two* Years under improved System:	
Total Amount collected	£.243 11 4	Total Amount collected	£.1315 3 5
Ditto remitted to Parent Society	173 11 10	Ditto remitted to Parent Society	1295 13 2
317 Bibles and Testaments distributed.		2873 Bibles and Testaments distributed.	

Similar effects have followed the adoption of the system wherever it has been steadily pursued; and, as the employment of suitable agents appears to be the only mode by which it can be generally introduced, the attention of National Bible Societies should be directed to the selection and appointment of individuals, properly qualified for this important department. The astonishing success that has attended the exertions of the Parent Society's foreign agents—of which a sketch has been already given—and the considerations which it forces on every reflecting mind, furnish an imperative call for the increase of such devoted labourers, to give effect to the gracious purposes of Divine Providence.

An agent should be intimately acquainted with the system of the society, throughout its various departments, and qualified to assist in forming and organizing new societies and associations. In the pursuit of his object, he will find the advantage of consulting those individuals whose station and influence in society, and knowledge of the district, render them competent advisers; and as the attainment of a positive good may be retarded, if not frustrated, by injudicious haste, he should always be influenced in his proceedings by local circumstances.

The attendance of general meetings constitutes a prominent duty; but his services in the committee-room are frequently of equal, if not superior, importance; and his arrangements should always be made with especial reference to this latter object, to which a more distinct allusion will be made in the next chapter. He should be furnished with an adequate supply of those publications which explain and illustrate the design and beneficial effects of the society; and avail himself of every favourable opportunity to circulate information on the subject.

In visiting Auxiliary Societies and Associations, he should note their comparative progress or declension;—investigate the causes of such effect;—point out, temperately, but firmly, the slightest deviation from the strict line of procedure recommended by the Parent Institution;—and examine the tendency of every measure adopted for giving increased local facility to their operations. In no respect can his attention and superintendence be more profitably directed, than to the inspection and revision of the account-books of local societies. As it must be a source of satisfaction to all parties, to have these books kept in a correct and methodical manner, so as to exhibit, at any period, the actual state of the funds and stock of the society, any suggestions in fur-

therance of this object will be gratefully appreciated. Nor should he omit to recommend, where necessary, the regular collection of the annual subscriptions; the immediate circulation of the reports, and other publications, of the Parent Society; and that strict observance of economy, in every department, which is alike essential to the character and prosperity of the institution. His correspondence with the Parent Committee should be frequent and confidential, including an exposition of the *actual* state of every society he visits. And he should proceed in his work under the constant recollection, that he is the representative of an institution, whose object is PEACE, and whose watch-word is CHARITY.

"Let every man when he puts his hand to this work, consider that he is entering into the immediate service of the Most High GOD; that he is engaging in an enterprise which is capable of producing more important results for this country, and for the world at large, than the greatest events of a mere temporal character ever have produced; that he aspires to the high honour of being instrumental in a great moral and spiritual renovation, which GOD has declared the world will undergo, and to the effecting of which He invites the services of those who fear and love Him: and let every one bring with him to this service, such a solemnity of mind, such a conviction of the importance of it, and such a high sense of his privilege in being permitted to engage in it, as will prepare him for undertaking whatever part of the duty may be committed to him, with alacrity, and with a firm, decided purpose of diligence and perseverance. While those who embark in this great cause, do so with a seriousness becoming its importance, let them, at the same time, place their sole reliance on the special interference and blessing of GOD; let them lift up their hands and eyes to Him who dwells in Heaven: and ask HIS support and direction, who alone can guide them in perplexity and sustain them under discouragements; who can remove obstacles, quell opposition, and, as the rivers of water, turn the hearts of men whithersoever he will." *

When agents are intrusted with Bibles and Testaments for distribution, as is sometimes the case, especially on the continent, they should be particularly careful not to circulate them in places where societies are established, without a previous arrangement with the local committees; as, by neglecting this precaution, they may injuriously interfere with the plans of such societies. And in every instance gratuitous distribution should, as much as possible, be avoided; and the people be induced to purchase the Scriptures, which are generally valued and read in direct proportion to the expense or trouble which they have cost in obtaining them. A judicious regulation on this subject was adopted at an early period by the exemplary Committee of the Bâsle Bible So-

* Address of the Committee of the Hibernian Bible Society, 1820.

Auxiliary System the principal support of a National Society.

ciety, on placing a number of French Testaments in the hands of a pious and zealous clergyman for distribution. After reducing the price of each copy to eighteen-pence, they inform their agent, that " he is at liberty to sell some of the copies at a higher price to wealthier persons, in order that he may be enabled to sell them to poorer classes for less than eighteen-pence, and to give some away to the most indigent and worthy."

It may not be improper to observe, that grants of Bibles and Testaments for distribution should never be made to an *individual*, if a *society* be established in the district. In this, as in other respects, all unnecessary interference with the local institution must prove injurious.

4. It is in promoting and supporting the Auxiliary System that a national society is peculiarly indispensable, and constitutes a common centre of union and of strength. Without this central medium, the cause might indeed go forward, in a partial, unconnected, and imperfect manner, but destitute of that order, cohesion, and uniformity of proceeding which characterize the institution, and give facility to all its operations. By allotting to every department its own particular duty, and providing for the strict adherence of each to its own business exclusively, the duties of the several parts are kept distinct and separate, the great work is carried forward with comfort, while regularity and energy pervade the whole.

It is extremely desirable that some plan may be devised, by which the annual meetings of Auxiliary Societies shall be held in regular succession, on fixed and certain days, so as to allow of those preliminary arrangements which may secure assistance from the Parent Institution. The great and increasing number of those societies in Great Britain, precludes the possibility of such a measure, with a view to the attendance of all those meetings by the same individuals; but the object may be attained by following the example of the Assize Circuits, and making an annual appointment of visiters for each division of the kingdom. If a map of the country, indicating those portions of it in which Auxiliary Societies and Associations are formed, were placed in the Committee Room of every National Bible Society, it would materially assist the arrangement now suggested. A similar plan may be beneficially adopted by the Associations in connexion with any particular Auxiliary Society, so as to secure the assistance of a deputation from the latter: this has been done in *Southwark;* and the happy effects will be detailed in their proper place.

Local wants best supplied by Local Societies.

It would further facilitate the communication between the Committee of every national society, and the Committees of its affiliated institutions, if the latter were to inform the Parent Committee of their days of meeting, which should be entered in a book kept for that purpose. And it may not be improper to suggest the advantage of holding those Committee Meetings early in the month, in order to receive and distribute the Monthly Extracts.

It will be evident, that when individual applications are made to National Societies for grants of Bibles and Testaments, the first consideration should be, whether local means be not already provided for the supply of the applicants. If an Auxiliary Society be established in the district, the claim should be referred to it in the first instance; and then all interference which might lead to confusion will be avoided. Even when the grant is solicited for prisons, hospitals, convict-ships, &c. it will be found advantageous to make it through the medium of the Auxiliary Society, which may be credited in account for the amount of such grant. It may be safely laid down as a general rule, that local necessities should be investigated and supplied by local societies; and any deviation from this rule should be considered as an exception, justified by peculiar circumstances alone.

If any Auxiliary Society require a supply of Bibles and Testaments, to an amount greater than the balance in its favour in the Parent Society's books, a minute investigation should precede the grant. Such an application would be novel in Great Britain, where it is the principle of every Bible Society and Association, at least, to support itself, if it cannot contribute in aid of the general object; but the case is different on the continent; and without the occasional aid of the Parent Institution or National Society, the demands could not be adequately supplied.

It may be worth the consideration of National Societies, whether the establishment of Auxiliaries and Associations will not be facilitated, by keeping a stock of Minute and Account Books, to be sold to such societies at the cost prices. A similarity of plan throughout the various parts of the system will thus be secured, and the mode of conducting the business rendered plain and intelligible. The Hibernian Bible Society has adopted this plan with considerable advantage.

5. The circulation of important and interesting information has been already referred to, as one of the most efficient

Correct Returns from all Auxiliaries, &c. very desirable.

means by which the design of the institution has been promoted.* But it cannot be too strongly recommended to National Societies, to provide for the early and regular delivery of those publications to their subscribers and affiliated societies, and to apportion the space allotted to intelligence, so that every department may receive a due share of attention. The Annual Report should appear as soon as possible after every General Meeting, so as to confirm the impression made and the interest excited by the latter. The Appendix should contain a judicious selection of extracts; but brevity should be studied, not only from motives of economy, but because a *voluminous* report is seldom read by the great majority of those who receive it, and is unnecessary in reference to those Societies which publish monthly extracts of correspondence. For similar reasons, the list of individual subscribers may be advantageously omitted in the copies designed for general circulation. Every means should be adopted to procure correct returns of all Societies in connexion with the National Institution, and to insert them in the Annual Report, under their respective heads of—Auxiliaries, Branches, Associations, Marine, Juvenile, and Mechanics' Societies—the five latter being classed under the Auxiliary Societies with which they are severally connected. The interest and advantage of such a list would be materially increased, if the following particulars were inserted opposite to each :—1. The estimated population of the district. 2. The number of individuals engaged as officers, collectors, &c. 3. The total number of subscribers. 4. The total number of Bibles and Testaments distributed. 5. The total amount received: and, 6. The amount remitted for the general object of the Parent Society. A printed circular, with a blank form of the required abstract, sent annually to the Committee of every Auxiliary Society, appears to be the best mode of attaining this object; which will be sufficiently illustrated by the following specimen of a return—the entries in *Italics* being made by the Secretaries of the Auxiliary Society. By deducting the aggregate population of those districts in which a Branch Society and Associations are established, from the total population of the entire district embraced by the Auxiliary Society, as specified in the first line, the proportion of the latter, which is still unoccupied by Local Bible Institutions, is immediately ascertained.

* See Section VIII.

Specimen of an Annual Return from an Auxiliary Society.

SPECIMEN.

N° 5.* *Reading* AUXILIARY SOCIETY.

Abstract to the 11th of *April* 1820.

NAME OF SOCIETY, &c.	Estimated Population.	Number of Officers Committee, &c.	Total No. of present Subscribers.	Total No. of Bibles & Tests distributed.	Total Amount received. L.	s.	d.
Reading Auxiliary....	22,000	50	93	2,534	2,728	10	9
Oakingham Branch Soc.	2,000	5	8	5	54	6	2
D°.							
D°.							
D°.							
Reading Association...	12,000	95	763	2,135	1,278	18	2
Oakingham D°.	*See Branch.*	16	90	367	202	8	6
Shinfield, &c. D°.	2,000	14	110	427	265	2	9
Burghfield D°.	500	8	71	60	39	15	0
D°.							
D°.							
D°.							
D°.							
D°.							
Marine Socy.	*none*						
Juvenile D°.	*none*						
D°.							
Mechanics D°.	*none*						
D°.							
General Total..	16,500	188	1,135	5,528	4,569	1	4
Total Amount remitted to the Parent Society					£. 4,233	1	5

George Hulme,
Arch^d. Douglas, } Secretaries.

* The Number refers to that of the Reading Auxiliary Society in the alphabetical list inserted in the Annual Report.

A Depository requisite.—Bibles, &c. should be stamped.

In addition to the annual reports and monthly extracts of correspondence, occasional papers, similar to the "Brief View" and "Compendium,"* may be circulated with considerable advantage by National Bible Societies, particularly in districts where the design of the institution is not generally known or understood.

6. To insure a regular and adequate supply of Bibles and Testaments, a *Depository* is indispensably requisite. In Russia, America, Wurtemberg, and other countries where National Bible Societies are instituted, an establishment for printing and binding constitutes an important branch of this department; but in Great Britain, where the privilege of printing the holy scriptures of the authorised version is confined to the two universities, the king's printers, and, under certain limitations, the patentee, a printing establishment is unnecessary.

The trouble of examining and collating copies is materially diminished, except in the first instance, by the invention of stereotype printing; but those who are charged with the superintendence of the depository cannot bestow too much attention on the duties of this appointment. The quality of the paper, ink, and binding materials, as well as the workmanship, should be carefully examined, and no copies be sent out before they are properly seasoned. The designation of the society should be stamped upon the binding of every Bible and Testament issued,—a precaution which was adopted by the Parent Institution in London at its outset, and has been followed with advantage by the Russian, American, and some other National Societies.

It may not be altogether unnecessary to observe, that Auxiliary Societies, and, through them, Branch Societies and Associations, should receive their Bibles and Testaments from the National or Parent Society exclusively. The character of the institution is, in degree, involved in the acts of its connected societies; and if incorrect copies of the Scriptures, or any additions to them, were issued by any one of the latter, the whole would suffer. It should be the constant object and study of each and all, to preserve inviolate their fundamental principle.

7. The funds placed at the disposal of a National Society consist of its direct subscriptions, donations, and legacies; remittances from the institutions connected with it; the pro-

* See Appendix, Nos. v. and vi.

duce of sales of Bibles and Testaments; and occasional grants from the Parent Society in London. The appropriation of these funds should be under the control and direction of the General Committee; but the examination and payment of bills may be referred to a judicious Sub-Committee, which should report monthly. The mode of keeping the accounts with Auxiliary Societies has been already detailed in its proper place; but it may be suitably observed here, that whether Auxiliary Societies give notice of their intention or not, they are at liberty to order Bibles and Testaments to the amount of the balance standing at their credit; and they should be requested, annually, to specify what proportion of such balance may be transferred for the general purposes of the National Society. A statement of the receipts and expenditure, duly authenticated and signed by the auditors, should be included in the Annual Report.

8. As the tone and spirit of the *General Meetings* of Bible Institutions depend, in a considerable degree, on the recommendation and example of those who represent the Parent Society on these occasions, this appears to be the most suitable place to introduce the subject.

Whoever has been in the habit of attending those meetings, especially within the last few years, must have perceived a material and progressive improvement in the manner of conducting them. In the earlier period of the society's existence, when its principles and its practice were alike questioned, the advocates of both found themselves compelled to adopt a defensive course, and an argumentative style, which are, happily, no longer necessary.—The importance of the cause, and the strict adherence of those who conduct its proceedings to their fundamental principles, are generally felt and acknowledged; and it only remains to confirm and extend these impressions, by the prudence, the wisdom, and the Christian liberality of its public agents, and the gradual developement of its beneficial tendency and effects.

"It were much to be desired," observes the Rev. J. Owen, "that in anniversary meetings in general, controversial topics should be wholly avoided, as alien from the nature of such commemorations, and adverse to the purposes for which they are held." * And the following extract affords a gratifying evidence, that a similar feeling prevails on the continent of Europe:—

"Bible Societies are neither preachers nor interpreters; they provoke

* See Preface to Owen's History, Vol. I. p. xvi.

Proper feelings to be cherished by the Society's advocates.

no controversies; neither do they infringe the rights of any individual, or church: they content themselves with giving the book which every Christian communion respects, and which all acknowledge to contain the only laws which GOD has revealed to man. They engrave, on metal, the same commandments which were traced by the finger of GOD on tables of stone; and they leave to the ministers of every religious persuasion the task of explaining them, and engraving them on the heart. Since, in the sight of GOD, there is no exception of persons, revealed religion belongs to the whole human race: and who can object, that this charter of the liberties and prerogatives of man should be translated into every language; for where is the nation, or where the savage tribe, that has not its lot or part in this inheritance?" *

Animated by sentiments like these, the Christian advocate of the Bible Society will pursue his course, "*zealously affected in a good cause*," but asserting its merits with temper and moderation;—firm and unshaken in his attachment, but governed, in his expression of it, by that charity which "*suffereth long, and is kind*;"—expecting a continuance of that success which has hitherto attended his exertions, but prepared to attribute it to the mercies of GOD in CHRIST JESUS; and influenced by a desire to ascribe all the power and all the praise to the source of "*every good and perfect gift*." Allowing, in its utmost latitude, the right of private judgment, he will never condemn the motives of those whose opinions differ from his own; and will always recollect, that a man may love his Bible, and yet decline to co-operate with the Bible Society. Among the many causes which have contributed to the success of the institution, none have been more conspicuous than the meekness and liberality manifested by its advocates: they appear to have imbibed the benevolent spirit of the cause, and to have realized the hope so admirably expressed by the present Chancellor of the Exchequer:—"It is not simply," he observes, "to the diffusion of the Bible, but to the co-operation of all Christians to diffuse it, and to the effect of that co-operation on our own hearts, that I look, not only for the *establishment of Christian faith*, but the *extension of Christian charity*." And in the loud language of their conduct, they seem to have said one to another, "If we cannot reconcile all opinions, let us endeavour to unite all hearts."†

Neither is it in his individual capacity alone, nor in the line of public advocacy, that he may thus illustrate the tendency and recommend the claims of the institution. His *example* will have a powerful influence on those who conduct the

* Third Report of the Bible Society at Lausanne, for the Canton de Vaud.

† See Letters to the Rev. Dr. Marsh, and John Coker, Esq. Appendix, No. I.

Complimentary votes at General Meetings may be avoided.

proceedings of subordinate societies; and by "*a word fitly spoken*," he may contribute to the extension of the empire of charity and peace.

The improvement in the mode of conducting public meetings, is in no respect more manifest, than in the avoidance of that complimentary strain, which is peculiarly unsuitable on those occasions. "In every benevolent institution, the members are too ready to compliment one another for what they have done; forgetting, that what has been accomplished, may bear such a slender proportion to what might and ought to have been attempted, as rather to carry with it a portion of blame."* And even in reference to those individuals whose patronage, or services, may have essentially contributed to the progress of the cause, the sentiment of gratitude should be expressed with caution, and under a constant fear of overstepping the line which separates respect and adulation. The most zealous and ardent friend of the Bible Society would be the first to shrink from that praise which he best deserved, and which subjected him to the risk of being classed among those, "*who receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that cometh from* GOD *only*."

Conducted in this spirit of conciliation and Christian liberality; giving honour to whom honour is due, but avoiding the language of flattery; and keeping steadily in view the single and simple object they are designed to promote; the meetings of Bible Societies will continue to confirm and extend an interest in the cause. But whoever has attentively watched the progress of the institution, must have lamented, in too many instances, the speedy evaporation of that pure and generous feeling, which had been excited; and under the influence of which, a strong desire had been raised to co-operate in a work replete with blessings to the human race. An impulse, rather than a principle, has been communicated;—when we have separated, "the world and the things of it" have gradually resumed their empire in our hearts; and we have continued to act as we did before, until another year has witnessed a similar scene of excitement, and been followed by a return of unproductive intention. "*Work while it is called to-day: the night cometh, wherein no man can work.*"

Such are the means, by the application of which, under the Divine blessing, the British and Foreign Bible Society has

* Fifth Report of the Paisley, &c. Auxiliary Bible Society.

"We shall reap abundantly, if we faint not."

been enabled to accomplish, thus far, its work of mercy. If there be errors in the agency employed, or in the system adopted, let them not impair the value of the object in our estimation, nor weaken our obligations as Christians and as men. "If, among the thousands to whom the Bible is given, only one weary pilgrim of this earth should be refreshed—one sufferer relieved—one weak believer strengthened—one thoughtless sinner roused—one wanderer led back to the right way—one who has fallen raised up—one soul saved .....who would not gladly co-operate in such a work, and cheerfully bestow his mite in its behalf?"*

In concluding this division of the work, the author recurs with pleasure to the just and animated language of his friend, the historian of the Society:—

"Of this institution, founded on principles so simple and just; directed to ends of such transcendent excellence and utility; combining moreover in its favour so many and powerful interests in almost every part of the world; and—what is more than all—distinguished by such signal testimonies of the Divine approbation and blessing; our hopes may be permitted to keep pace with our wishes: and there is scarcely a measure of prosperity that we could reasonably desire for it, on which we may not venture with humble confidence to reckon. Past occurrences authorise the expectation of its perpetuity; and present appearances lend to that presumption every confirmation.

"In the confidence inspired by these considerations, the friends of the institution, both at home and abroad, may prosecute their labours with cheerfulness, and wait the issue of them with more than resignation. In disseminating the word which God has revealed, they are executing the plans of His wisdom, and fulfilling the purposes of His love. Every step they take in such a career, is so much done towards advancing the knowledge of His will and the kingdom of His Son. Through their instrumentality, and that of those who may succeed them, the work shall progressively go forward; till, all nations being brought to the light of Divine truth, and subdued to the obedience of faith, every knee shall bow to the sceptre of CHRIST, and every tongue shall confess that He is LORD, to the glory of GOD the FATHER."†

* Speech of Lord Teignmouth, at the Sixteenth Anniversary.

† Owen's History, Vol. III. p. 511 et seq.

CHAP. II.

AUXILIARY SOCIETIES.

"NOW ARE THEY MANY MEMBERS, YET BUT ONE BODY."
1 *COR.* XII. 20.

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS.

IT is in the very nature of Christian benevolence to diffuse itself in direct proportion to the value of its object. Never did fire descend from heaven, without finding an altar prepared for the sacrifice, and materials to receive and to extend the sacred flame. We have seen, in the instance of Nuremberg,* that scarcely had the flame been kindled in Britain, when the reflected light was caught by Germany, and hailed as the dawning of a brighter and a better day on that afflicted country. In our own highly-favoured land, it appears as though it was beheld, for a season, with mingled feelings:—if there were some, who thought it the flash of a meteor, and anticipated its speedy extinction; there were others, who believed it had already attained its meridian brightness, and was sufficient for the sphere it was destined to illuminate.

But if the British and Foreign Bible Society did not *immediately* receive that general support to which it is so eminently entitled by the importance of its object and the liberality of its constitution, it has attracted and secured the public approbation in a manner the best calculated to insure its permanence. The principle and the practice of the institution have been scrutinized, with a degree of acuteness and ingenuity seldom applied to investigations of this nature; and the result has not only manifested the correctness and integrity of both, but called forth the expression of the public sentiment to an extent unparalleled in the annals of practical benevolence. For more than five years, the society pursued its course in comparative silence and obscurity; gradually establishing its claims to the sympathy and confidence of the Christian world, but unsupported by that *general* demonstration of regard and attachment which was subsequently displayed. During those five years, ending 31st of March 1809, the total

* See Chapter I. Section IX.

amount of its receipts, exclusive of sales of Bibles and Testaments, was 33,256*l.* 17*s.* 5*d.*:—in the spring of 1809, the first Auxiliary Societies were formed; and the total amount derived from this source alone, in the five succeeding years, ending 31st of March 1814, was 145,332*l.* 5*s.* 9*d.* The generous flame soon pervaded every county of the kingdom; and the aggregate sum remitted by Auxiliary Societies during the eleven years, ending March 1820, exceeds *four hundred and seventy-eight thousand pounds.*

There is another test, by which the importance and the value of this part of the system should be estimated. It is obvious, that a Committee of thirty-six Gentlemen, meeting in London, could not ascertain the wants of the whole population of Great Britain. That a deplorable deficiency of the holy scriptures existed in many parts of the country, they had ample reason to believe; and the result of some partial investigations had abundantly confirmed this conviction: but they were not prepared for the melancholy fact, which subsequent and more minute inquiry established, that, in a land on which the light of the Reformation had been shed for more than 250 years, nearly one half of the people were destitute of that sacred volume which reveals the foundation of their faith and the source of their dearest hopes. It will readily be admitted, that *local* committees furnished the only adequate means of ascertaining the real state of their districts, and of extending the requisite supply: and thus, by the establishment of Auxiliary Societies, the first step was taken towards the accomplishment of an object, more intimately connected with the peace, the happiness, and the best interests of our country, than any which the wisdom of our ancestors had ever devised. It is sufficient in this place to observe, that the efficacy of Auxiliary Societies, in reference to the circulation of the holy scriptures, is satisfactorily proved by the fact, that the total amount of sales of Bibles and Testaments, in the five years ending March 1809, was 9,764*l.* 7*s.* 2*d.*; and the number of copies distributed, 158,429:—but in the five years immediately succeeding, and ending March 1814, the amount of sales was 56,056*l.* 0*s.* 7*d.*; and the number of copies distributed, 828,658. The rapid increase of sales during the seven years which have subsequently elapsed, must be attributed to the still further extension of the system, and will be considered in reference to Bible Associations.

Nor are these advantages, great as they confessedly are, the only benefits derived from the institution of Auxiliary Societies. "The importance of these establishments is not to

be estimated merely by the acquisition of splendor, and the accession of means and influence, which the Parent Institution derives from them, however indispensable to the success of its proceedings; *nor* from the consideration, that, through their instrumentality, the wants of the people, respecting the holy scriptures, are ascertained and supplied. By their intervention and inquiries, the benefits of the institution are extended, in a degree which could not be effected by any other means; the perusal of the holy scriptures is not only assisted, but recommended; and the public attention is thus attracted to that book, on the observance of whose precepts, both the happiness of individuals and the peace of society alike depend, and from which only the knowledge of eternal life is to be derived."* And it has been well observed, that such an union of rank, of talents, and piety, in a cause so pure, " could not fail to strike foreign nations as the collected homage of Britain to her SAVIOUR and her GOD."

SECTION I.

ORIGIN OF AUXILIARY SOCIETIES.

1. When a desire is once excited to co-operate in a design which the judgment sanctions, and the best feelings of the heart approve, the *mode* of gratifying that desire will speedily be discovered. It may, indeed, at first be crude and undigested; but it will gradually acquire order and consistency, and adapt itself equally to local circumstances and the nature of the object it is intended to promote. The justice of this observation will be acknowledged by all who have followed the progress of the British and Foreign Bible Society. The first demonstration in its favour, upon a principle of combined and aggregate exertion, was made in the form of congregational collections: nor should it be forgotten, that this example was set by Scotland, a country which Divine Providence has made, above every other on the face of the earth, *the land of Bibles.*— Neither will this source of supply be treated with indifference, when it is stated, that the amount contributed by it to the funds of the Parent Society exceeds *twenty-five thousand pounds;* and that in many places it still constitutes the only means by which a desire to assist in this great work can be prudently manifested.

* Ninth Report of the British and Foreign Bible Society, p. xxxvii.

The "French Bible Society," 1792.—Essay by the Rev. J. Hughes.

2. In tracing the origin of Auxiliary Societies, it is impossible to avoid a reference to another institution, short-lived indeed, in consequence of the melancholy events which almost immediately succeeded its establishment in London in the year 1792; but evincing, as has been remarked, in the recorded exposition of its design, "much of the liberal spirit and practical views which have characterized the British and Foreign Bible Society."* The institution alluded to, was designated "The French Bible Society;" and was "formed for the purpose of disseminating pure Christian knowledge in France, by obtaining a general distribution of the holy scriptures, printed in the French tongue, throughout that nation." In the prospectus issued by the society, they "*recommend the formation of societies in different parts of the country, to assist them in the attainment of their object:*" and they further express a confident expectation, "*that smaller societies will be formed in the provincial towns of France, to assist the general plan.*" Had the existence of this institution been generally known, we might here find the germ of that plant, which has struck its roots into the soil of our country; and, like the sacred tree of India, bent its branches to the earth, whence they have again sprang forth and extended the refreshing shade throughout the land. But it appears that this institution "*was altogether unknown*" to him in whose enlightened and capacious mind the idea of the British and Foreign Bible Society originated; and the lapse of nearly twenty years precludes our tracing to this suggestion the origin of the Auxiliary System.

3. In the summer of 1803, the Rev. Joseph Hughes produced that admirable essay, entitled, "The excellence of the Holy Scriptures an argument for their more general dispersion;" which, it is observed by his colleague, "may be regarded as containing the rudiments of the future society." In the ardour of his benevolence, the author pursues the prospect which Infinite Mercy had opened to his view; and, beholding with the eagle-eye of faith those remote scenes, which were hereafter to expand in all their beauty beneath the beams of the Sun of Righteousness, he exclaims—"Let us then cast a friendly eye over distant countries, and be the parents of the first institution that ever emanated from one of the nations of Europe, for the express purpose of doing good to all the

* See Owen's History, Vol. I. p. 24 et seq. for an interesting account of this remarkable society, and its early dissolution.

rest."—"Many arrangements," he continues, "must be left to the determination of experience. "*Light will break in, as the friends of the institution advance: they will act as occasion dictates; always having that to do, which will either connect with remoter branches of their design, or stand well insulated and alone.*" Whether the first conception of the Auxiliary System can be discovered in this language, the reader will decide; but there is a peculiar satisfaction in tracing to the founder of the institution, the origin of those means by which the attainment of its object has been so essentially promoted.

4. The first establishment in aid of the British and Foreign Bible Society was formed in London, in July 1805; and as it furnishes the primary instance of an approach towards the system now under consideration, the following statement of its plan and constitution cannot with propriety be omitted.

Extract from the ADDRESS *of the* LONDON ASSOCIATION *for contributing to the Fund of the* BRITISH *and* FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY.

"It having been considered that there are many persons, who, on account of their subscriptions to other societies, or on account of the narrowness of their incomes, would not be justified in becoming direct members of the British and Foreign Bible Society, who would yet be desirous of contributing somewhat proportioned to their ability; it is, therefore, the object of this Association to embrace such persons, according to the subsequent plan."

LAWS *and* REGULATIONS *of the* ASSOCIATION.

I. Each member to commence with a donation of not less than *2s.* and not to exceed *7s.* To continue a member at a monthly subscription of not less than *6d.* and not more than *1s.* Members' subscriptions to be due on the first day of each month.

II. Each member to be a collector in his turn, to collect from eight members, including himself; to be changed annually, proceeding alphabetically; those who were collectors during the past year to be Representatives of the Association to the British and Foreign Bible Society during the ensuing year.

III. The collectors shall deliver the subscriptions received to the secretary, in sufficient time for him to pay it to the treasurer at the Quarterly Meeting.

IV. The secretary (who shall be considered a member of the Committee) shall issue the notices, receive the collectors' accounts, &c. gratuitously.

V. A Committee shall be appointed to conduct the business of the Association, consisting of thirteen members: nine of the above number, who shall have most frequently attended, to be eligible for re-election for the ensuing year.

VI. The Associations hall meet quarterly; viz. on the first Wednesday after the 15th of November, February, May, and August, in each year.

VII. The money to be paid by the treasurer, immediately after the Quarterly Meeting in February, in each year, to the Collector of the British and Foreign Bible Society.

Formation of the Birmingham Association, 1806.—Its regulations.

VIII. The Annual Meeting of the Association shall be held the last Wednesday in June; when the Committee shall be chosen, the accounts presented, and the proceedings of the foregoing year reported.

IX. That, at all General and Committee Meetings, such member as shall be chosen for that purpose shall preside at the meeting.

X. The Committee shall meet the first Wednesday in the month, or oftener if needful.

5. The next instance of an associated effort in furtherance of the cause, appears to be that of *Birmingham*. It was formed in April 1806, "chiefly through the active instrumentality of the Rev. Edward Burn, the diligent and highly respected Minister of St. Mary's in that town;" and who has subsequently acquired, by his zealous and efficient services, the merited distinction of an honorary Life Governor of the Parent Institution. The following is an extract from the printed Resolutions of the Birmingham Association:—

"At a very respectable Meeting, held this day, to consider the best mode of promoting the great objects of the British and Foreign Bible Society:

GEORGE SIMCOX, Esq. in the Chair,

&c. &c.

"The following Resolutions were unanimously passed:—

"Resolved—That it is the opinion of this meeting, that an united effort be made, by the different denominations of Christians in this town, in aid of the British and Foreign Bible Society.

"It appearing to this meeting, that the most eligible plan, for carrying this design into effect, will be by a personal application throughout the town:

"Resolved—That the town be divided into the following twelve districts; and that the gentlemen, whose names are affixed thereto, be requested to solicit subscriptions and donations, and to report to the Committee the result at the Blue School, by twelve o'clock on Monday the 5th of May; in order to its being transmitted in time for the next annual report of the society."

[*Then follows a list of the different districts, &c.*]

"Resolved—That it be recommended to Ministers of the different denominations to adopt such measures, with their respective congregations, as may best conduce to a general co-operation for the attainment of this important object.

"Resolved—That the gentlemen present, together with the clergy and acting magistrates of the town, be appointed a Committee to receive the report, and to transmit the amount of the several subscriptions and donations to Henry Thornton, Esq. M.P. Treasurer; and that five be competent to act.

"Resolved—That the subscriptions and donations, so transmitted, be presented to the British and Foreign Bible Society, as the united contribution of the different denominations of Christians in the town of Birmingham; accompanied by a list of the names of such subscribers who may be entitled to be supplied with books at the society's prices."

6. Without detracting in the slightest degree from the merits of these institutions, it will readily be perceived that their constitution was defective in some essential particulars.

Bath—Glasgow—Greenock—defective constitutions of all these Societies.

That of the former approaches the design of a Bible Association, without the advantages derived from *local* interest and exertion; and that of the latter possesses the character of a temporary and occasional expedient, rather than that of a fixed and permanent society. Of these deficiencies, indeed, their respective conductors became sensible at a subsequent period:—those of the London Association having long since directed their energies and their experience into the more regular channels of the various Metropolitan Societies; and the Birmingham Association, while it retains its original designation, having adopted the more appropriate character of an Auxiliary Society. Both, however, have left the striking example of early co-operation and ardent zeal; and given the best evidence of the correctness of the motives by which they were governed, in availing themselves of the more matured system to extend their services and increase their usefulness.

7. In the autumn of 1806, an association, similar in design to that in London, was established at *Bath:* and in their report for 1808, the Committee of the Parent Society pointed out these institutions, with that of Birmingham, and one recently formed at *Glasgow*, "in the hope that they would become objects of imitation, wherever such a measure was practicable, throughout the island." In 1807, a society was formed at *Greenock*, for the professed purpose of "circulating the holy scriptures where they are most wanted, and of assisting other societies which have the same views."—This institution, in the year 1813, merged into the "Greenock and Port-Glasgow West Renfrewshire Bible Society;" and, on its dissolution, expressed, in a valedictory letter to the Parent Institution, its "confident expectation, that, by this change, the same object would be carried forward on a scale greatly enlarged, and with a vigour and success proportioned to the number and influence of the persons engaged."

8. Such were the several Associations that contributed in a collective form to the funds of the British and Foreign Bible Society, during the first five years of its existence: but it was reserved for the town of *Reading* to give, to Great Britain and the world, the primary example of a regular "AUXILIARY BIBLE SOCIETY." This memorable event is introduced by the Rev. John Owen, in language which the author gladly adopts, while it affords him the opportunity of expressing his feelings of sincere and grateful attachment to many estimable friends.

First regular Auxiliary Society formed at Reading, 1809.—Its regulations.

"The Rev. Dr. Valpy, of Reading, whose erudition and philanthropy have conferred no ordinary reputation on that town, which has for so many years been the seat of his scholastic labours, had distinguished his attachment to the British and Foreign Bible Society, by preaching on its behalf, both at Wallingford and Wrington, and by other unequivocal testimonies of a concern for its welfare. Through the persevering exertions of this gentleman, and others who participated in his sentiments and feelings, a Public Meeting was convened in the Town Hall at Reading, under the sanction of the Mayor, on the 28th of March 1809; when an 'Auxiliary Bible Society' was established for the town and vicinity of Reading, on the principles and 'regulations of the Parent Society,' and with the professed design of 'contributing to its laudable undertaking.'" *

The following Resolutions were adopted at the establishment of this society, which very soon obtained the patronage of the Bishop of Salisbury, who cheerfully became its president:—

"At a respectable Meeting of the Inhabitants of the Town and Neighbourhood of Reading, on Tuesday the 28th of March, to take into consideration the propriety of establishing a Society in aid of the British and Foreign Bible Society in London, it was unanimously RESOLVED,—

I. That the present Meeting do highly approve the plan and objects of the British and Foreign Bible Society in London.

II. That an Auxiliary Society be formed in this town and neighbourhood, to contribute to that laudable undertaking.

III. That this Society adopt, as far as possible, the rules and regulations of the Parent Society.

IV. That a Committee be formed to carry these resolutions into immediate execution, consisting of—

[*Here follow the names of sixteen gentlemen.*]

V. That Dr. Valpy and Mr. Monck be appointed secretaries, and Mr. Tanner, treasurer, to the society.

9. Scarcely had the Reading Society been established, when a similar institution was formed at *Nottingham,* under the designation of "the Bible Society of Nottingham and its Vicinity." This important occurrence took place on the 30th of March 1809; and the regulations were adopted with a cordial unanimity which confers the highest honour on that populous and public-spirited town. The constitution of this society exhibited a still nearer approach towards the system subsequently matured, especially in providing, "that one-half of the amount of the funds of the society should be subscribed to the British and Foreign Bible Society;" and "that the remainder should be appropriated to discharge the expenses of the society, and to purchase Bibles and Testaments of the British and Foreign Bible Society, to be distributed for the benefit of the town and neighbourhood." It was also resolved, that an annual meeting of the society

* Owen's History, Vol. I. p. 406.

should be held: nor ought it to be forgotten, that, in selecting a clergyman, a dissenting minister, and a layman, as joint secretaries, the Nottingham Society displayed an example of union and conciliation which has been followed throughout the nation, with incalculable advantage in every point of view.

10. The sacred flame, thus kindled, spread with unexampled rapidity. The year ending in May 1810, was characterized by the establishment of *ten* Auxiliary Societies in England, and *three* in Scotland,* which are thus enumerated, in the Sixth Report of the Parent Institution:—

1. "Newcastle upon Tyne and its vicinity."
2. "Penryn and Falmouth."
3. "Leeds."
4. "Manchester and Salford."
5. "Devon and Exeter."
6. "Leicester."
7. "Kendal and its vicinity."
8. "Sheffield and its vicinity."
9. "Hull."
10. "Bristol."
11. "Edinburgh."
12. "East Lothian."
13. "The Scottish Bible Society, formed by the Ministers of the Presbytery of Edinburgh."

In examining the rules of these societies, a gradual improvement is perceptible: and this is peculiarly evident in reference to those adopted at Newcastle, Leeds, and Kendal; which respectively provide, that "one-half of the Committee shall be members of the Established Church:" thus following in this, as in other respects, the judicious regulations of the Parent Society. But much was still wanting to perfect the system: no adequate provision was yet made for ascertaining the wants of the poor; individual exertion, in this respect, seems to have been contemplated as the only, or at least the principal means of discovery and supply; and, in some instances, the local necessities were not contemplated as an object of attention. It is true, "the introduction of Auxiliary Societies gave a new tone to those operations which regarded the provision for the inhabitants of the British Islands;" and the comparative statements, already referred to, afford the best evidence of an increasing desire to meet the demand; but, as has been well observed,—

"It would not have been sufficient to produce this effect, and the other advantages with which it has been accompanied, that the public concern should have been awakened simply to the wants of the poor, and the supply of those wants have been left to the unregulated operation of casual and indiscriminating liberality. Some expedient was wanted, which might unite economy and efficiency; some plan, which, by a graduated and symmetrical

* It is but justice to observe, that the sister island was not deficient in this "*labour of love*;" the Hibernian Bible Society having added several Branch Societies to the general cause during the same period.

arrangement, should associate all orders of the community, and effectuate the universal distribution of the Scriptures, with the least burden to the general fund, and the greatest advantage to the individual receiver. The origin of Auxiliary Societies having been altogether accidental and unforeseen, the regulations of the British and Foreign Bible Society contained no provision, for either modelling their constitution, or defining their operations. It followed as a consequence, that there was no uniformity in their construction; no mutual identity in their internal organization; no principle, in short, of agreement among them, (the fundamental principle of the Parent Institution excepted,) by which their conduct might be governed, and their separate efforts consentaneously directed to the accomplishment of the general end." *

11. In no respect have the wisdom and foresight by which the Rules of the Parent Society were framed, been more conspicuous, than in the constitution of the Committee: and never was their practical tendency more beneficially manifested, than in the year 1810, when Richard Phillips, Esq. became an elected member of that body. Scarcely had he taken his seat at the board, when he perceived the paramount importance of the Auxiliary System, and the full extent to which it might be carried:—the tree was indeed planted; but he saw the necessity of watching its growth, of training its branches, and of giving a right direction to that vigor which might otherwise run into wild and unprofitable luxuriance. Impressed with a full sense of the magnitude of the undertaking, he digested a plan for the government of Auxiliary and Branch Societies; and having, in the month of October 1811, accomplished his design, he made trial of its efficacy, by circulating copies of the proposed rules and regulations.

"It was not long, however, before the Committee of the British and Foreign Bible Society became so fully convinced of its excellence, that they resolved to adopt it as their own. In consequence of this resolution, the plan was submitted to a careful revision: and in the spring of 1812, it was issued from the Depository of the Parent Institution, under the title of "Hints on the Constitution and Objects of Auxiliary Societies;" and copies of it were liberally dispersed throughout the country. The good effect of this measure soon began to appear. Auxiliary and Branch Societies assumed a more regular form, and their operations were conducted upon principles which assimilated them to each other, and connected them harmoniously with the Parent Institution. Under the influence of this system, the respective Committees now pursued more orderly and effective ways of raising subscriptions; took upon themselves the appropriation of those Bibles and Testaments which before had been placed at the disposal of the individual subscribers; and, as well by instituting minute and personal inquiries among the habitations of the poor, as by encouraging sale at cost or reduced prices, in preference to absolute gift, they ascertained the degree in which the Scriptures were wanted, raised the estimate of their value in the minds

* See Owen's History, Vol. II. p. 532 et seq.

of the receivers, and augmented to the Parent Institution the means of providing for the accomplishment of its object in foreign parts." *

12. Nor were the beneficial effects of this improvement of the system confined to the Auxiliary Societies already in existence:—many benevolent individuals, in different parts of the kingdom, were encouraged, by this production of a regular and uniform plan of operation, to adopt measures for the establishment of similar institutions: and the following comparative statement will afford a gratifying illustration of the results.

In the year 1809-10, the number of Auxiliary Societies established was *thirteen*; and the amount contributed, 5945*l.* 4*s.* 3*d.* In 1810-11, the number of new Auxiliaries was *seventeen*; and the amount of contribution, 6071*l.* 3*s.* 10*d.* In 1811-12, the number of new Auxiliaries was *fifty-three*; and the amount of remittances, 24,813*l.* 5*s.* 10*d.* And in 1812-13, the number of new Auxiliaries was *seventy-five*; and the amount of contribution, 55,099*l.* 3*s.* 10*d.*

Such were the immediate results of a plan, the details of which will be more distinctly considered in the following section. Devised and matured by an individual, who was originally drawn from the retirement of private life by his Christian sympathy in the wrongs of Africa,—and who brought into the service of the Bible Society the active philanthropy and steady perseverance by which he was distinguished as a member of the Committee for the abolition of the Slave Trade,—few schemes of benevolence exhibit a better specimen of practical wisdom, or have given more universal satisfaction. In contemplating these results, well might the Committee observe, in their Report for 1813—"Your Committee cannot but rejoice, both as Christians and Britons, in presenting such a record, which, while it calls forth the warmest expression of their cordial gratitude and acknowledgments, will be read with admiration by foreign nations, and, they trust, will descend to posterity, as an example for imitation."

SECTION II.

RULES AND REGULATIONS.

1. It should be distinctly understood, that the following code of laws is merely *recommended* by the Parent Institution,

* Owen's History, Vol. II. p. 338 et seq.

which assumes no control over the internal arrangements of its affiliated societies; and only insists, as the invariable condition of such connexion, on the recognition and strict observance of its fundamental principle—"the circulation of the holy scriptures without note or comment,"—and, in our own country, of "the authorised version" exclusively. But while each society is thus left at perfect liberty to frame its own constitution, and is responsible for its own measures, the importance of one uniform plan of operation will be acknowledged; and that system be duly appreciated, which has borne the test of nine years' practical application.

As the regulations of an Auxiliary Society cannot be too clear and explicit, the author ventures to suggest the parenthetical additions in the 2d, 10th, 12th, and 17th rules.

2. RULES *recommended for* AUXILIARY SOCIETIES.*

I. That the object and constitution of the British and Foreign Bible Society have the cordial approbation of this meeting.

II. That a society be (*now*) formed, to be called "the Auxiliary Bible Society of ," for the purpose of co-operating with the British and Foreign Bible Society, in promoting the distribution of the holy scriptures, both at home and abroad.

III. That, conformably to the principles of the Parent Institution, the Bibles and Testaments, to be circulated by this society, shall be without note or comment; and those in the languages of the United Kingdom, of the authorised version only.

IV. That all persons subscribing one guinea *per annum*, or upwards, or ten guineas or upwards at one time, shall be members of this society.

V. That the business of this society shall be conducted by a president, vice-presidents, a treasurer, secretaries, and a Committee, consisting of other members, half of whom shall be members of the Established Church; and that members of this Committee constitute a quorum.

VI. That every clergyman, or other minister, who is a member of the society, shall be entitled to attend and vote at the meetings of the Committee.

VII. That the Committee shall meet once every month, or oftener, on some day to be fixed by themselves.

VIII. That the Committee divide this town and neighbourhood into districts, and appoint two or more of their members for each district, who may associate with themselves any subscribers, for the purpose of soliciting subscriptions and donations from the inhabitants thereof; and that they establish proper agents and correspondents in different parts, within the limits of this Auxiliary Society.

IX. That the whole of the subscriptions and donations received by the society shall be from time to time remitted, after deducting incidental expenses, to the Parent Institution, in consideration of the advantages held out to Auxiliary Societies; *viz.* "That the Committees of such societies shall be entitled to receive Bibles and Testaments, estimated at prime cost, to the amount of half the entire sum remitted to the Parent Institution,

* Of these Rules, the IXth was drawn up by the Rev. John Owen; the XIIIth by the Rev. Josiah Pratt; and the remainder by Mr. Phillips.

Rules recommended by the Parent Committee for Auxiliary Societies.

if their local necessities shall require such a supply; and further, that the members of Auxiliary Societies shall be entitled to the privilege of purchasing, from the depositories of the Auxiliary Societies, Bibles and Testaments, on the same conditions as the members of the Parent Institution."

X. That, for the purpose of giving full effect to the benevolent design of the British and Foreign Bible Society, in their grant of the Scriptures for distribution among the poor, the Committee shall make it their business to inquire (*either personally or by means of Bible Associations*) what families or individuals, residing within their several districts, are in want of Bibles or Testaments, and unable to procure them; and that it shall be the duty of the Committee to furnish them therewith, at prime cost, reduced prices, or gratis, according to their circumstances.

XI. That, for the still further promotion of the circulation of the Scriptures, it is expedient to encourage the formation of *Branch Societies* in such districts, within the sphere of this Auxiliary Society, as may not be sufficiently populous to form Auxiliary Societies of their own; such Branch Societies, and the individual members thereof, to be entitled to the same privileges from the Auxiliary Society as it and its individual members enjoy from the Parent Institution.

XII. That such persons as may not find it convenient to become members of the Auxiliary Society, or of any one of its branches, shall, upon forming themselves into Bible Associations, (*and sending a copy of their Rules to the Committee,*) be entitled to purchase at the depository of this society, under the direction of the Committee, copies of the Scriptures, at prime cost, for gratuitous distribution, or sale at prime cost, or reduced prices, among their poorer neighbours.

XIII. That all clergymen, and other ministers, within the sphere of this society, making collections in their respective congregations in behalf of the institution, shall be entitled, on remitting such collections to the treasurer of this society, to receive Bibles and Testaments to an amount not exceeding one-half of the said respective collections, estimated at prime cost, as shall be found to be needed by the poor in the vicinity; such return of Bibles and Testaments to be claimed within one year from the remittance of the collection.—It is recommended, in all practicable cases, to supply the poor by sale, rather than by gift.

XIV. That a General Meeting of the subscribers be held at the in each year; when the accounts shall be presented, the proceedings of the past year stated, a new Committee appointed, and a report agreed upon, to be printed under the direction of the Committee, and circulated among the members.

XV. That, in the formation of the new Committee, the (*president, vice-presidents*), treasurer, secretaries, and such three-fourths of the other members as have most frequently attended the Committee, shall be re-eligible for the ensuing year.

XVI. That be president, vice-presidents, treasurer, secretaries, and members of the Committee for the year ensuing.

XVII. That annual subscriptions and donations be now entered into, and that they be also received by the treasurer, (*the secretaries*), and the several bankers of this town and neighbourhood.

XVIII. That these resolutions be published in such manner as the Committee may direct; and that a copy of them, signed by the chairman, be transmitted to the President of the British and Foreign Bible Society.

XIX. That the Committee meet the instant, at o'clock, and prepare, print, and circulate, an address on the object and views of this society.

Importance of a strict adherence to the principle of the Institution.

3. Observations.

I. In defining the district proposed to be embraced by an Auxiliary Society, regard should be had to the boundaries of similar institutions previously established in the neighbourhood, and to the relative strength and efficiency of the Committee. It is easier to extend than to contract the limits of the society; and by including a larger field than can be conveniently and properly cultivated, the services of other labourers may be lost. This observation is particularly applicable to *County* Auxiliaries, from which the Parent Institution has derived so material an accession of patronage and influence: but it is worthy of consideration, whether the same advantage may not in future be secured, and the general object be more fully accomplished, by assigning a smaller district as the sphere of an Auxiliary Society. When the executive members reside at a considerable distance from the central depository, it is impossible to ensure their regular attendance at the committee meetings; and, without this attendance, the interest gradually subsides. It is true, these and other difficulties have been, in some degree, obviated, by the formation of *Branch* Societies; but it is equally certain, that these latter institutions are generally less effective than "Auxiliary" establishments. This subject may be profitably illustrated, by consulting the annual reports, and comparing the results of a county society with those of any other county, similar in extent and population, which contains several Auxiliary Societies.—In all practicable cases, the centre of the society, where its Committee meet, its depository is kept, and its business is conducted, should be a town of some considerable population, where a sufficient number of the Committee reside to transact business, and which has easy means of communication with the capital.

II. In reference to the *Third* Rule, the attention of those who are concerned in the establishment or direction of those societies, cannot be too strongly directed to the following extract from the Eighth Report of the Parent Institution:—

"It is the object of the Committee, in all their transactions, to adhere with the utmost strictness to the simple principle of the institution; viz. the distribution of the holy scriptures without note or comment:—and, while they feel the obligation to this duty increase with the increasing magnitude of the establishment, they trust that a similar feeling will pervade the several Auxiliary Societies and Bible Associations throughout the United Kingdom, and that one correct line of operation may continue to characterize the whole body."

III. The primary object of Auxiliary Societies is, to interest

the higher and more wealthy classes of the community, and to procure their contributions: leaving it to Bible Associations to excite a similar feeling in the labouring classes. They should, therefore, endeavour to procure the patronage of persons of rank and influence; and fix their rate of subscription, not with reference to the poor, but to the middle and upper ranks of society. In this respect they cannot adopt a better scale than that of the Parent Institution, by which the risk of interference with Bible Associations is completely obviated.

IV. In the selection of suitable persons for President and Vice-Presidents, much will depend on local influence, and still more on respectability of character:—and, in every appointment, the latter ought to be a paramount consideration. It may not be improper to observe, that an *individual*, rather than a banking establishment, should fill the office of Treasurer, and that he should be a person who possesses the public confidence. Allusion has been made, in the preceding section, to the advantage of selecting the secretaries from different denominations of professing Christians; and as the duties of those officers will be hereafter adverted to more distinctly, it is only necessary to add, that in no appointment is the welfare of the society more deeply involved. The number of the Committee will necessarily depend on the extent of the society and the local interest in the cause; and it may be sufficient to observe, that in few cases should it be less than twenty-four, or exceed forty-eight:—in some of the most effective Auxiliaries in Great Britain, the medium number of thirty-six has been adopted.

The usual number to constitute a quorum is five, exclusive of the officers.

V. The regularity of attendance at the meetings of the Committee may be safely taken as a criterion of the health and vigour of a Bible Society; the success or declension of which will always be in proportion to the degree of zeal and attention manifested in the Committee Room. The author is acquainted with two facts which will sufficiently illustrate this part of the subject.—In the one case, during a period of more than four years, the average attendance, monthly, exceeded two-thirds of the whole Committee: the chair was taken punctually at the hour appointed; and the society progressively advanced towards the attainment of its object. There was always business to be done, because there was always an inclination to do it. The district was covered with Bible Associations; and the Auxiliary Committee found their

Local deficiencies best supplied by Associations.

pleasure and their reward in their success. It is scarcely necessary to add, that few societies have more liberally contributed to the funds of the Parent Institution, or more thoroughly investigated and supplied the local deficiencies.—In the other instance, the number of the Committee was similar; and, during the first year, the average attendance exceeded two-thirds: but it was then resolved to meet *quarterly*; and this attendance was reduced to one-fourth: punctuality was disregarded; and the society rapidly declined. There was little business transacted, because the interest had subsided: and, while the local wants were neither ascertained nor supplied, the contributions to the Parent Institution were diminished to one-fourth of their original amount.—In the former instance, the Committee experienced the truth of that scripture, as "*Iron sharpeneth iron, so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend*;" but in the latter, the solitary secretary had to adopt the language, "*Woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up.*"

VI. The practical tendency of the *Eighth* Rule will be considered in Section III.: and, in reference to the *Ninth*, a full explanation of the mode of proceeding has been already given in Chapter I. Section VI.—A strict attention to the suggestions there offered, will save considerable trouble to all parties.

VII. One of the first difficulties in the way of an Auxiliary Committee, will arise out of the provisions of the *Tenth* Rule, as they regard the supply of the poor, and the applications for *gratuitous* grants. It is here that the wisdom and the firmness of the Committee will be called into exercise. Nothing is easier, if sufficient funds be at their disposal, than to supply their district with Bibles and Testaments; but to effect this desirable object in the *best* manner, requires serious and deliberate consideration. The evils attendant on an indiscriminate gratuitous supply, are obvious:—the difficulty of deciding on the comparative merits of claimants, is easily perceived; and it must be evident, that the preferable mode of disseminating the holy scriptures is that by which an additional value is attached to them in the eyes of the receivers. That no plan hitherto devised is so well calculated to secure these advantages, and to avert those evils, as that of Bible Associations, the evidence of facts and experience abundantly testifies: consequently, one of the first cares of the Committee, after their appointment and organization, should be with reference to this important subject, which

naturally arises out of the *Twelfth* general Rule. For this purpose, the division into districts, and the appointment of the District Committees, should be made with a view to this result; and the latter should be instructed to examine and report thereon. But, in order to facilitate the attainment of this great object, it is absolutely necessary that the Committee should refuse all applications for gratuitous grants, at the commencement of their labours, (except in extraordinary and peculiar cases of very rare occurrence,) even from deserving persons; and thus excite a desire for the formation of Bible Associations. In numerous instances, this apparent harshness at the moment, towards the *few*, has produced eventual and permanent good to the *many*.

VIII. The subject of Branch Societies, as involved in the *Eleventh* Rule, will be considered in a separate section.

IX. The practical operation of the *Thirteenth* Rule will be found extremely advantageous where Bible Associations are not formed: but the establishment of these admirable institutions will, generally, supersede the necessity of requiring a return of Bibles and Testaments for congregational collections. Considerable benefit has been derived, especially at the commencement of an Auxiliary Society, from the publicity given to the object by the recommendatory sermons of clergymen and other ministers of local influence. The great importance of distribution by sale, rather than by gift, will be considered in the chapters which treat of Associations.

X. Few circumstances, connected with the detail of a Bible Society, demand more attention than those which relate to the Annual General Meetings. These should be held, in all practicable cases, on a fixed and specified day; and after such arrangements with neighbouring societies, as shall not only prevent interference, but assist the general cause: and the time agreed on, and inserted in the rules, should never be altered, except some extraordinary occurrence render the alteration absolutely necessary. Twelve o'clock has been found the most convenient hour for such meetings, to which every possible publicity should be given, by placards, hand-bills, and advertisements. A Sub-Committee, of three or more members, should be appointed a few weeks previous to the meeting, to whom the preliminary regulations should be confided. The treasurer's account ought to be clear and explicit, and be examined and signed by two or more auditors appointed by the Committee. The reports of Auxiliary

Importance of an *early* meeting of the Committee.

Societies, especially those at a considerable distance from the seat of the National Society, may advantageously include a condensed view of the operations of the latter; but the primary object should be, a full detail of the local proceedings, and of such beneficial results as appear most interesting and important. This division of the report should always include a general abstract of the Auxiliary Society and its connected institutions, similar to the return already inserted in Chap. I. Section XIV. The suggestions on the subject of General Meetings, in the same section, are respectfully submitted as equally applicable to those of Auxiliary Societies:—such further remarks as appear necessary, will be offered in Sect. V. of this chapter.

XI. The duty prescribed by the last clause of the *Eighteenth* Rule is too frequently neglected; but it should be remembered, that it constitutes the official notification of the society's establishment, and induces a recognition of that relation which is so highly beneficial to all parties.

XII. It frequently happens, that the "address," alluded to in the *Nineteenth* Rule, is prepared and published *previous* to the establishment of the society; and that a subsequent address, during the first year, is not considered necessary. In such cases, the latter part of this resolution may be omitted; as nothing should appear in the rules with which a strict compliance is not contemplated. Copies of the laws and regulations, with the names of the officers and Committee annexed, may be beneficially circulated in the district.

It will be found very advantageous for the Committee to hold their first meeting on as early a day as possible after the general meeting, while the subject is fresh on the minds of the members. One of the first matters for discussion at such meeting will constitute the subject of the next section.

SECTION III.

BY-LAWS OF THE COMMITTEE.

1. If there be any merit in filling up an outline so admirably defined, it is of a very humble nature. It did, however, appear, that something more was necessary; and that while those excellent rules and regulations, detailed in the preceding section, clearly point out *what* is to be done, they did not specify with sufficient accuracy *how* it should be accomplished. This defect—if such it can be called—was indeed

unavoidable; the system, in all its parts, had not been reduced to practice; and it was evident that many minor regulations must arise out of the application of those elements to local circumstances.

2. On a more close examination of the rules, it will be perceived that the object of the Committee, generally, may be classed under the two heads of, *Local Supply*, and *Co-operation with the Parent Society*; and that these branch themselves out into the following duties; viz.

I. Collecting subscriptions, and obtaining patronage.
II. Ascertaining the local wants.
III. Remitting money to the Parent Institution, and obtaining Bibles and Testaments.
IV. The establishment of a depository.
V. Supplying members on privilege.
VI. Circulating information.
VII. Establishing and supplying Branch Societies.
VIII. Establishing and supplying Bible Associations.

And it is obvious that those duties cannot be adequately fulfilled, without that division of labour which facilitates the attainment of every object of a general and benevolent nature. This principle is distinctly recognised in the *Eighth* Rule, as applicable to a particular purpose, but its extension, as a permanent feature of the system, remained to be developed.

3. On the establishment of the SOUTHWARK Auxiliary Bible Society, in June 1812, it became the official duty of the author to consider this subject in its practical bearing, and to provide for the regular application of the appointed means to the desired end. In pursuing this object, with which the plan of Bible Associations was naturally and inseparably connected, the necessity of a code of *By-Laws* appeared manifest, in order to define with accuracy the several duties of the Committee, and to point out the mode by which the fundamental rules of the society should be carried into effect. This code was unanimously adopted by the Committee, and has been subsequently introduced by many Auxiliary Societies with considerable advantage.—It is now submitted, with those few alterations which experience has suggested. The specimen selected is that of Plymouth, &c.; and the local application of the words printed in *Italics* will be readily perceived.

By-Laws recommended for adoption.

4. By-Laws *recommended for adoption by the Committees of* Auxiliary Bible Societies.

GENERAL COMMITTEE.

I. The Committee shall meet at *the Council Chamber in the Town-hall* on the *third Monday* in every month, precisely at *six o'clock in the evening.*

II. As soon after *six* o'clock as *five* members are present, the chair shall be taken, and the business be commenced.

III. The chair shall be taken by the President; in his absence, by one of the Vice-presidents; or, in their absence, by the Treasurer: but should none of these officers be present, the members shall elect a chairman from amongst themselves.

IV. The order of proceeding at each monthly meeting shall be:—

1. To read the minutes of the preceding meeting, and to dispose of any business arising therefrom.
2. To call for the treasurer's report of the state of the funds, and of his receipts and disbursements for the last month.
3. To call for the depositary's report of the stock of Bibles and Testaments on hand, and of his receipts and deliveries in the last month.
4. To call for a written report from each District Committee: such report to be taken into consideration, and to be received, if approved.
5. To receive the secretaries' report of remittances from the *Branch Societies and Associations*, and of payments made by the collector, with any official communications which they may have to make. After which, fresh propositions shall be taken into consideration.

V. The names of the members shall be called over at *half past six* o'clock; and no one who attends subsequently shall be considered as present, in reference to re-election, although entitled to vote.

VI. The secretaries are authorised to order Bibles and Testaments, when necessary. The designation of this society, or one of its affiliated institutions, shall be inscribed or stamped on the title-page of every copy issued by the society.

VII. The General Committee, as provided by the fundamental rules, shall consist of *thirty-six* members, of whom one-half shall be members of the Established Church. When any vacancies occur, the secretaries shall notify the same, stating under which denomination new members are to be admitted.

VIII. The election of new members shall be by ballot; and no person proposed shall be admitted without the consent of three-fourths of the members then present. No ballot shall take place before the names have been called over.

IX. A depository of Bibles and Testaments shall be established; from which no books shall be delivered without an order signed by one of the secretaries. The depositary shall present, monthly, to the secretaries, to be laid before the Committee, an account of all Bibles and Testaments received and issued, and of the stock on hand.

X. Two or more auditors shall be appointed annually; who shall examine the accounts, and present a statement of the same, signed by them, to the committee meeting immediately preceding the annual meeting in each year. All bills shall be referred to the auditors for examination, and signed by two of them, before they are discharged.

XI. On notice being given, that any one of the societies in connexion with this society is about to hold a general meeting, the Committee shall

appoint a deputation to attend the same, and to assist in the proceedings, if necessary.

TREASURER.

XII. The treasurer shall not pay any money without receiving a copy of the Resolution of the Committee, authorising such payment, extracted from the minutes, and signed by one of the secretaries. He shall present a statement of his receipts and payments to every monthly meeting of the Committee.

SECRETARIES.

XIII. The three secretaries shall be—one, a clergyman of the Established Church; another, a dissenting minister; and the third, a layman.

XIV. The secretaries shall be *ex-officio* members of all Sub-Committees.

XV. The secretaries shall call a special meeting of the Committee, on receiving a requisition signed by five members; or they may do so on their own authority alone: such meeting not to take place till three days after the summons; which shall specify the object of the meeting.

DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

XVI. The General Committee shall be divided into the following *twelve* District Committees; viz.

1. *Charles*,
2. *St. Andrew*,
3. *Stonehouse*,
4. *Northern Dock*,
5. *Southern Dock*,
6. *Stoke* and *Morice-town*,
7. *Torpoint*, &c.
8. *Millbrook*, *Kingsand*, *Cawsand*, &c.
9. *Saltash*,
10. *Plympton*, &c.
11. *Ivybridge*,
12. *Tamerton*, *Knackers-hole*, *St. Bude*, &c.

each of which shall be charged with the duty of establishing, if deemed expedient, a Branch Society, or Association, within the particular district, and of affording it the requisite advice and assistance when established.

XVII. Each District Committee shall appoint, monthly, one or more of their members, to attend and assist at the Committee Meeting of the *Branch Society*, or *Association*, within their district.

XVIII. Each District Committee shall present, monthly, a written report to the General Committee, which shall specify,—

1. The present state of the *Branch Society*, or *Association*, within their district; with the names of those members of this Committee who have attended the *Branch*, or *Association*, Committee:
2. The amount of subscriptions received for this society, with the names and address of all new subscribers;—with any other requisite information.

XIX. In the appointment of every District Committee, Sub-Committee, or Deputation, one of its members shall be designated as Secretary of such Sub-Committee; to whom a copy of the minute of appointment shall be handed, and who shall give any requisite notice to his colleagues, and present the reports to the General Committee.

XX. Any member of the Committee neglecting to attend for three successive months, shall be reminded by the Committee of such breach of the rules of the society, and requested to state whether he is unavoidably prevented fulfilling the duties of his office.

XXI. A COLLECTOR shall be appointed by the Committee; who shall give security for the trust reposed in him, and who shall not keep in his hands a sum exceeding *forty* pounds. He shall pay over the whole of his collections to the cash-secretary, by whom the particulars shall be entered in the 'Subscription Book,' and the amount transmitted to the treasurer. The collector

shall be remunerated by an allowance, not exceeding *five* per cent. * on the amount collected by him.

XXII. When it is reported by the collector, that any subscriber to the society has discontinued his or her subscription, the Committee of the district within which such person resides shall endeavour to have such subscription renewed.

XXIII. The respective District Committees shall, at their discretion, canvas their districts for additional subscriptions, at least once in the year.

XXIV. It shall be the duty of the Minute Secretary to supply every District Committee with an adequate number of the Annual Reports, as published, for the subscribers resident in the district, and a few for circulation. He shall also send twelve copies annually to the Committee of the Parent Society.

XXV. No new By-Law shall be proposed, nor any existing By-Law repealed or altered, without one month's previous notice being given, and a copy of the proposed alteration or addition sent to each member of the Committee.

5. *Observations.*

I. The place, day, and hour of the committee meeting should be selected with a view to the convenience of the members, and never be altered without sufficient reason. The importance of regular and punctual attendance has been already adverted to, in the preceding section. The Minute Secretary prepares an "Agenda,"—*See Specimen, Chap.* I. *Section* II.—which is laid, with a copy of the By-Laws, before the chairman, at every committee meeting. In county societies, and in all cases where the members reside at a considerable distance from the place of meeting, the Committee will find it advantageous to meet at twelve o'clock; but where a more limited district is embraced, the evening is found more suitable. As economy cannot be too strictly observed in every part of the system, the gratuitous use of a room should, if possible, be obtained.

II. While the minutes of the preceding meeting are read by one of the secretaries, his colleagues may be usefully employed in examining whether the treasurer's and depositary's reports be accurately filled up, and comparing them with the reports of the preceding month, which should always be preserved in a Guard-book. Specimens of these reports will be inserted in Section V. of this chapter.—It should be distinctly observed, that when Bible Associations are connected with a Branch Society, the Auxiliary Society recognises them only through the medium of the latter; as a different course of proceeding would interrupt the order and harmony of the system. It is the province of the chairman to conduct the business

* The commission to the collector should never exceed *five* per cent: in some societies, it is considerably less.

according to the order prescribed in the IVth By-Law; by a strict attention to which, much valuable time will be saved.

III. In fulfilling the duties specified in the VIth By-Law, the secretaries will recollect the suggestions already offered in Chap. I. Section VI.; and never suffer the amount of their orders to exceed the balance at their credit in the books of the Parent Institution. An adequate and well-assorted stock should be always kept in the local depository; but this stock should never exceed the probable demand. When Bibles and Testaments are delivered to a Branch Society, or Bible Association, it becomes the duty of the secretaries of such society, or association, to inscribe or stamp the copies with the title of the particular institution by which they are issued to the public; and thus the facility of detection, in the event of improper disposal, is increased.

IV. In the choice of new members of the Committee, the intimate acquaintance with the district, derived from the exertions of preceding years, may be turned to a profitable account, by enabling the members to select gentlemen properly qualified for the important office. A preference should always be given to those, if suitable in other respects, who reside in that part of the district which most requires attention. The plan of election by ballot is adopted in the Parent Committee, and is recommended as the most unobjectionable mode of admitting new members.

V. The depository should be established in a central and convenient situation, and be under the constant care and superintendence of the secretaries. In many Auxiliary Societies which require an assistant secretary, the same individual acts as depositary with advantage to the cause; and, in others, the depositary is remunerated for his trouble, by a small per-centage on the amount of Bibles and Testaments *sold to subscribers* under their privilege. Where the gratuitous services of a suitable individual—a bookseller for instance—can be procured, it is scarcely necessary to say, they should be gratefully accepted; unless there be reason to fear that the absence of responsibility may induce neglect. Specimens of the depositary's book, and the secretary's order, will be found in Section V. of this chapter.

VI. It is evident that the time of a Committee may be more profitably occupied than in the examination of bills; and that this necessary duty can be better performed by two

or three gentlemen, acquainted with business, and appointed for this special purpose. If the bills be presented at one meeting, entered on the minutes, and referred to the auditors, they should be returned the following month, either signed as correct—in which case, their discharge is immediately ordered, by minute—or with the objections noted at the foot of the respective accounts.

VII. The XIth By-Law, in its practical tendency, is one of the most important in the whole code. The arrangement of the Annual Meetings of Branch Societies and Bible Associations ought always to be made in concert with the Committee of the Auxiliary Society with which they are connected, and the days of meeting should not, if possible, be altered. It is the duty of the Minute Secretary of the Auxiliary Society to report to the Committee, monthly, such meetings as fall in course within the ensuing month: the requisite appointment is then made, and a copy of the Minute sent to the Committee of the Branch Society or Association. A due consideration of this subject, in all its bearings, and of the responsibility which attaches to those who are pledged to the discharge of this important duty, cannot fail of drawing still closer the ties of Christian union and mutual regard, while it strengthens and extends the general interest in that great cause which all are engaged to support.

VIII. The importance of selecting a suitable person as *Treasurer* has been adverted to in the preceding section. This subject demands the more attention, as he generally acts as Chairman of the Committee, where his prudence and knowledge of business are of material consequence. It is scarcely possible to define the balance which ought to remain in the hands of a treasurer; but, as it cannot be supposed he accepts the office under any view of deriving pecuniary profit from his appointment, and the Parent Institution has a constantly-increasing demand on the funds placed at its disposal, the standing balance should not exceed the sum required for incidental expenses.—On closing the accounts at the end of every year, the *whole* of the balance in hand should be remitted to the Parent Society, by which the cash-statements will be rendered more clear and intelligible.

IX. The success of every benevolent institution depends, in no inconsiderable degree, on the zeal, the wisdom, and the diligence of the *Secretaries;* but in no cause are these valuable qualities more requisite, than in that of the Bible Society.

Nor should it be forgotten, in tracing the unexampled progress of this institution, that much of its efficiency has been derived from the piety, the talents, and the disinterested services of nearly two thousand gentlemen of extensive personal and local influence, who fill this important office within the United Kingdom; and who have still further illustrated, in their respective districts, that union of spirit, and that devotedness to the object in view, which are so conspicuous in the secretaries of the Parent Institution.

Although it is certainly desirable that an Auxiliary Society should have three secretaries, and that they should be selected as prescribed in the XIIIth By-Law, many establishments of this description adopt a different plan; some having four, or even six secretaries; others, two; and a few, only one:—in the latter cases, especially, an assistant-secretary is indispensable. But the experience of the best-organized societies, the example of the Parent Institution, and the natural division of the official duties, concur in strengthening the recommendation of the By-Law. As the secretaries are the representatives, not only of the local societies, but in some degree of the Parent Institution, as public advocates of the cause, they should be selected with the greatest care:—the suggestions already offered, in reference to this subject, sufficiently explain the author's meaning.

The duties of the respective secretaries may be thus defined:—

1. The MINUTE Secretary takes charge of the rough and fair "Minute Books;"—preserves the records of the Society;—conducts the business of the Committee;—and directs the official correspondence with the Parent Institution, the connected Branch Societies and Associations, and individuals.
2. The CASH Secretary takes charge of the "Subscription Book" and "Leger;"—receives all remittances from the connected Branch Societies and Associations, and the collections from the District Committees and collector;—and presents a report monthly to the Committee.
3. The BIBLE Secretary takes charge of the "Order Book;"—superintends the Depository, and attends to the state of the stock;—gives and receives all orders for Bibles and Testaments;—and examines, monthly, the "Depositary's Book," and his report to the Committee.

Specimens of all these Books, &c. will be inserted in the Vth Section of this chapter.

As the Minute Secretary conducts the correspondence of the Society, it follows, that many accounts and documents are

addressed to him which appertain to the departments of his colleagues, to whom they should be immediately transmitted for insertion in the proper book, but are subsequently returned to him. For instance:—when the Minute Secretary receives from the Parent Institution an invoice of Bibles and Testaments, he hands it to the Bible Secretary, by whom, and the Depositary, it is compared with the books received, and the particulars entered in the Depositary's Book;—the Bible Secretary then marks it as "*correct, and entered*;" signs and transmits it to the Cash Secretary, by whom the British and Foreign Bible Society is credited for the amount in the Leger; and the invoice, signed as "*entered*," is returned to the Minute Secretary, by whom it is preserved.

By a strict adherence to system, the duties of a secretary become light and pleasant, and occupy considerably less time than may appear necessary for their regular discharge. The proceedings of the Committee should be transcribed into the "Fair Minute Book," as soon as possible after each meeting; and a copy of every Minute requiring attention sent immediately to the party whom it concerns:—an attention to this point, however apparently trivial, will materially tend to the order and regularity of the society. If the secretaries meet, monthly, half an hour before the time appointed for the Committee, it will considerably facilitate the proceedings.

In reference to the XVth By-Law, it may be observed, that "special meetings" should be avoided as much as possible. All the meetings of a Committee are important; but it should only be on extraordinary occasions that the members are specially convened.

x. It will be evident to the reader, that the XVIth By-Law is simply an extension of the principle laid down in the *Eighth* general Rule; and which is thus applied to the permanent arrangements of the society. By this division of labour—assigning to every separate part its particular and defined duty, and making each responsible for its allotted portion alone—the pressure is equally felt throughout the whole, and no spring in this moral machinery is overloaded; an intimate knowledge of the specific duty is acquired; and, as this is seen to be essentially requisite to the good order and welfare of the whole, the interest is constantly kept alive. The business assigned to one cannot be delegated to another, without interrupting the general harmony; and, at every monthly meeting, the Committee have a clear view of the separate and combined results of their system.

Appointment of District Committees.

In defining the several districts, reference should be had to their comparative extent and population; and the division should be as equal as local circumstances admit. Parochial boundaries, as being generally recognised, afford a tolerably correct idea of the mode to be pursued; although an extensive parish may be advantageously divided, or two or more small ones united in the same district. The number and local convenience of the members likewise deserve consideration in these arrangements; which should be prepared by a Sub-Committee, and subsequently revised by the General Committee before they are finally adopted. In every discussion connected with this subject, the ultimate establishment of an Association in each district should be constantly kept in view.

The division having been agreed on, and the boundaries of every district accurately defined on separate sheets of paper and entered on the minutes in numerical order, the District Committees are appointed; and one of the members of each is nominated as district secretary, to whom the paper containing a specification of the district, the names and address of his colleagues, and a few forms of the "monthly report," are handed; and he is henceforward considered as the official organ of such District Committee. To him the secretaries transmit all reports, papers, and other documents for the use of his district; and from him all requisite information is expected relative to its state, and the proceedings of the society within its boundaries.—Considerable advantage will be derived from the frequent meeting of District Committees, especially a day or two previous to the meeting of the General Committee, in order to draw up their monthly report,—a duty which should never be deferred to the last moment.—The mode of establishing and organizing Branch Societies and Associations will be detailed in their proper order.

XI. Although the XVIIth By-Law provides only for the attendance of "one or more members" of the District Committee at the meetings of the Committee of the Branch Society or Association, it is very desirable that *all* the members should, if possible, attend regularly, and thus give the benefit of their countenance and experience to those highly important institutions, with whose actual state they will thus become more intimately acquainted.—This is the more necessary in reference to the XVIIIth By-Law; as the "monthly report"—a specimen of which will be inserted in the Vth Section of this chapter—should convey the unanimous sentiments of the District Committee on every subject it embraces.

Advantages of constant intercourse with the Associations.

The advantages derived from this constant intercourse of the members of an Auxiliary Committee with those of their connected Associations, are incalculable. Many of the District Committees may be occasionally strengthened by deputations from the General Committee, as local or temporary circumstances seem to require it: and as all the members of the latter are entitled to attend the Committees of the subordinate societies, this privilege may be rendered a source of benefit and satisfaction.—By the intimate connexion thus preserved and cultivated, the spirit of the system is maintained inviolate; the identity of plan and operation secured; and information, encouragement, and strength, mutually acquired and communicated.

XII. While the respect which is due to rank, character, and influence, should never be lost sight of, their possessors should be placed in the list of honorary officers, rather than on the Committee, unless they can devote some portion of their time and attention to the regular business of the society. Where this union is rendered subservient to the interests of the cause, no appointment can be more suitable; but it is undeniable, that nominal strength, in a Committee, is not unfrequently found to be real weakness.—To ascertain, and preserve the number of efficient members, is the object of the XXth By-Law.

XIII. In some few Auxiliary Societies the annual subscriptions are collected by the District Committees; and were economy the only guide to be consulted, this plan might be recommended for general adoption. But the importance of collecting regularly, and the difficulty of finding gentlemen who have sufficient time at their command to attend to this business at the precise period, renders it necessary to employ a collector, whose services the Committee can command, and whose interest and duty are equally concerned in exciting him to promptitude and regularity. There are, however, many instances of individuals who have declined subscribing when called upon by a collector, but who have cheerfully given or continued their support, when subsequently called on by their respectable neighbours or acquaintance, who were more competent to give any requisite explanation. In this point of view, the XXIId and XXIIId By-Laws have proved, in their practical operation, extremely useful; and the distribution of the annual reports, as provided for by the XXIVth By-Law, affords a favourable opportunity for extending a knowledge of the cause, and an interest in its success. The circulation of the "brief view,"

"compendium," "monthly extracts," and other authorised publications of the Parent Institution, has also been found eminently beneficial on these occasions.

XIV. Although the Committee have no power to make any change in the fundamental rules of the society, they are perfectly competent to make any requisite alteration in those minor laws which regulate their own proceedings. But nothing can be more detrimental to the interests of a Society than the frequent alteration of its rules, which should never take place without the most deliberate consideration, and the consent of at least three-fourths of the Committee.

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6. When Branch Societies, or Associations conducted by gentlemen, are established in connexion with an Auxiliary Society, the following additional By-Law may be adopted with great advantage:—

"That the presidents, treasurers, and secretaries of the Branch Societies and Gentlemen's Associations in connexion with this society, be *ex-officio* members of this committee.

SECTION IV.

THE MODE OF ESTABLISHING AND ORGANIZING AN AUXILIARY SOCIETY.

1. It has been well observed, in reference to the establishment of Bible Institutions, that "no place, where the blessings of the Gospel are known, needs any thing to engage its inhabitants in this cause, but necessary information about such societies, and an active individual to take a lead in the measure." So important is the object, so simple the design, and so replete with blessings the whole system, that benevolence and Christianity rejoice over it as one of the most efficient means ever suggested for the improvement and happiness of the human race.

2. When one or more individuals are disposed to co-operate with the British and Foreign Bible Society, and conceive that an Auxiliary Society may be established in the district where they reside, their first business should be, to obtain the concurrence and aid of a few respectable and suitable persons of local influence, and to form themselves into a *Provisional Committee;* of which one of the most active and prudent members should be appointed secretary. The duties that devolve on this Committee, which should meet at least weekly, and oftener, if convenient, may be thus defined:—

Preliminary measures recommended for adoption.

I. To acquaint the Committee of the Parent Society with the measure in contemplation, and the extent and population of the district proposed to be included in the projected society;—and to request a supply of those publications which have been found useful on similar occasions.

II. To adopt means for ascertaining by personal inquiry the state of the district with respect to the want of Bibles and Testaments, and enter the results on their Minutes.—In reference to this subject, it may not be improper to remark, that even if a district be adequately supplied with the holy scriptures, it furnishes no argument against the formation of the intended society, whose sphere of operation, through the medium of the Parent Institution, is co-extensive with the world, the state of which has been already described in Chap. I. Section X. On the contrary, it may safely be presumed, that, in direct proportion to the degree in which the Bible is possessed and studied, will the duty and desire be felt to impart the same blessing to all mankind. Experience, however, has exhibited a melancholy proof, that even in our own country the extent of the deficiency was awfully great; and as there are numerous individuals whose countenance and support may be given principally on this ground, the investigation is highly important.

III. The Provisional Committee, having received from the Parent Society a supply of those publications which explain and illustrate its design, should lose no time in circulating them with prudence and discretion. "The Brief View," and "the Compendium," as containing a condensed summary of its proceedings, may be generally distributed with advantage; and the sheet edition of the admirable letters of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, with the paper entitled "Episcopal Testimonies," may also be transmitted to the more respectable inhabitants.* The Annual Reports of the society should be *lent* to those individuals whose active services are solicited.

IV. To prepare the list of officers and committee.—The individuals selected for president, vice-presidents, and treasurer, should be waited on by deputations from the Provisional Committee, and their consent solicited. The importance of a judicious choice in these appointments, and in those of the secretaries and the committee, has been already adverted to in the two preceding sections, and cannot be too strongly recommended.

V. To draw up an address to be read at the general meeting for the establishment of the society.—This should embrace a brief, but explicit view of the nature, design, and proceedings of the Parent Institution, and a statement of the results of the investigation

* As all these Papers will be included in the Appendix, the reader will be enabled to adapt his selection to local circumstances.

Assistance of Parent Committee should be solicited.

recommended in the second paragraph of this division of the section. In some cases, this address has been printed and circulated previous to the general meeting; and in others it has been altogether dispensed with: the advantages, however, which have attended the plan in numerous instances justify its recommendation.

VI. When those preliminary measures are sufficiently matured, which will generally be the case in three or four weeks, the president, or in his absence another individual of distinction and influence, selected as chairman, should be consulted on the most convenient day for the general meeting, of which the Parent Committee should be informed, and the assistance of the secretaries be requested. In the mean time, a Sub-Committee of two or three gentlemen may be appointed, to engage a suitable place for the meeting, and to see that it is properly prepared; and the provisional secretary may draw up the order of proceeding, and transcribe the several Resolutions, leaving blanks for the respective movers and seconders.

VII. The time and place being definitively fixed, the next business is to give every publicity to the intended meeting, by means of placards, hand-bills, and advertisements;—to invite the neighbouring clergymen, ministers, and other respectable and eligible persons, to take part in the proceedings;—and to appoint different Sub-Committees, of three or four members each, to receive the visitors and accommodate the audience, enter the names of subscribers in books to be provided for the purpose by the secretaries, and attend with plates to receive contributions at the close of the meeting. The several blanks in the rules recommended for adoption should then be filled, and the Provisional Committee be adjourned to the morning of the day appointed for the General Meeting.

The following is the Form of the Books, or Papers, used for the purpose of entering Subscribers' Names, to be subsequently handed to the Secretaries, with the amount collected.

Name.	Residence.	Donation.			Ann. Subscript.			Paid, or out.
		£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	

The following ORDER of PROCEEDINGS will be found suitable at Meetings convened for the Establishment of Auxiliary Bible Societies:—

ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS at the General Meeting.

A. B. moves, and *C. D.* seconds, that *E. F.* be requested to take the chair.

1. *The Chairman*....	will open the business of the meeting, by stating the object for which it is called together; and conclude by referring to the address of the Provisional Committee.*
2. *G. H. (one of the gentlemen to be proposed as secretaries)*	will read the address of the Provisional Committee.
3. *J. K. (one of the secretaries or agents of the Parent Society, if present; if not, a gentleman acquainted with the subject)*	will address the meeting, on the nature, tendency, and effects of the Bible Society.
4. *L. M.*	will move the Resolution No. 1— "That the object and constitution of the British and Foreign Bible Society have the cordial approbation of this meeting; and that a society be now formed for the purpose of co-operating with that institution; of which the following shall be the Rules and Regulations."—[*See Section* II. *of this Chapter: the Sixteenth Rule should be omitted, as it contains the objects of subsequent and specific motions.*]
5. *N. O.*	will second the Motion No. 1.
6. *P. Q.*	The Chairman having put the question, will move the Resolution No. 2— "That this meeting gratefully acknowledges the liberal manner in which the presidency of this society has been accepted by *E. F.*, and that he be hereby elected President accordingly."
7. *R. S.*	will second the Motion No. 2.
8. *The Chairman*	The mover having put the question, will acknowledge the Resolution.
9. *T. U.*.....	will move the Resolution No. 3— "That this meeting acknowledges with gratitude the manner in which the following respected individuals have accepted the office of Vice-Presidents; and that they be hereby elected Vice-Presidents accordingly." [*Here insert the names of those gentlemen who have accepted the office.*]

* If no address be prepared, the Chairman generally refers to one of the secretaries or agents of the Parent Society, who is immediately followed by the Movers of the Resolution No. 1.

Order of Proceedings at the General Meeting.

10. *V. W.*	will second the Motion No. 3.
11. *X. Y.* (*one of the Vice-Presidents*)	The Chairman having put the question, will acknowledge the Resolution on behalf of himself and colleagues.
12. *Z. A.*	will move the Resolution No. 4— "That *B. C.* be Treasurer, and *D. E.*, *F. G.*, and *H. I.* Joint-Secretaries of this institution; and that the following gentlemen be members of the Committee, with power to fill up any vacancies in their number, viz." [*Here insert the names of the gentlemen composing the Committee.*]
13. *K. L.*	will second the Motion No. 4.
14. *M. N.*	The Chairman having put the question, will move the Resolution No. 5— "That this meeting acknowledges, with cordial satisfaction, the judicious zeal and activity manifested by the Provisional Committee, in arranging the important business of this day."
15. *O. P.*	will second the Motion No. 5.
16. *Q. R.*	The Chairman having put the question, will move the Resolution No. 6— "That while this meeting acknowledges the obligation under which it is placed by the valuable services of the Secretaries of the Parent Society, it gladly embraces the opportunity thus afforded to congratulate the Committee of that institution on the astonishing success with which Divine Providence has blessed their exertions, and the uninterrupted harmony and union which have characterized all their proceedings."
17. *S. T.*	will second the Motion No. 6.
18. *U. V.*	The Chairman having put the question, will move the Resolution No. 7— "That the cordial and respectful thanks of this meeting be presented to *E. F.* for his attention to the business of this day, and for his conduct in the chair."
19. *W. X.*	will second the Motion No. 7.
20. *The Chairman*....	The mover having put the question, will acknowledge the Resolution; refer to the gentlemen who are placed at the doors to receive contributions and to enter the names of subscribers; and adjourn the meeting to the day specified in the *Fourteenth* Rule.

4. The mode of *establishing* the society having been detailed, it is necessary to describe that internal organization of the Committee without which no extensive or permanent success can be anticipated. It has been already intimated that the Committee should meet on an early day; and it will be found advantageous if the members can be convened on the day immediately succeeding the General Meeting, and the secretaries or agents of the Parent Society be invited to attend. The secretaries should send timely notice to every member, and make the necessary preparations, by engaging a suitable room and adopting such other measures as may facilitate the proceedings.

5. The following Resolutions will be found to embrace all the business usually transacted at the *First* Meeting of the Committee:—they should be entered in the Rough Minute Book, in the order of their adoption, by one of the secretaries.

At the First Meeting of the Committee, held the —— of ——— 18—:

PRESENT:

A. B. in the Chair,

C. D., *E. F.*, and *G. H.*, Visitors,

And the following Members of the Committee:

[*Here insert the names of those present:*]

The Chairman having read the Resolutions of the General Meeting, held —— instant, it was RESOLVED—

1. That the following Code of By-Laws be adopted for the government of this Committee; and that the secretaries be authorised to get 100 copies printed, and to send one to each officer and member of the Committee; viz.

[*Here insert the By-Laws recommended in Section* III. *of this Chapter, or such modification of them as may be adopted.*]

2. That the duties of the secretaries be thus defined—

D. E. to be Minute Secretary:

F. G. to be Cash Secretary: and

H. I. to be Bible Secretary:*

and that they be authorised to procure the requisite account-books, Committee notices, forms of reports, and other papers, for the use of the society.

3. That the sphere of this society be divided into the following districts; viz.

[*Here specify distinctly, in numerical order, the several districts, as recommended in Observation* x. *Section* III. *of this Chapter.*]

4. That the following be the respective District Committees; viz.

District, No. 1.—*A. B.*, *C. D.*, and *E. F.*——and that *A. B.* be District Secretary.

[*Here specify the other District Committees in the same manner, and nominate a secretary of each, as recommended in Observation* x. *Section* III.]

* For a more full explanation of these duties, respectively, see Observation ix. Section III. of this Chapter.

Resolutions adopted at the *First* Committee Meeting.

5. That the several District Committees be requested to commence an immediate canvas of their respective districts, for the purpose of soliciting subscriptions and donations from the inhabitants: and that the Minute Secretary furnish the secretary of each district with a book properly ruled for entering subscribers' names,* and the requisite number of the address and printed papers explanatory of the design, for circulation.

6. That the several District Committtees, while engaged in fulfilling the immediate object of their appointment, endeavour to ascertain the most favourable situations for the establishment of Branch Societies and Bible Associations, and include the result in their Monthly Reports.

7. That the Minute Secretary be authorised to get 500 copies of the Rules and Regulations printed, with the names of the Officers and Committee annexed, and send twenty copies to the Secretary of each District Committee for distribution, and a copy signed by the President to the Committee of the Parent Society.

The Cash Secretary having reported that the amount collected at the General Meeting was,

In Donations	£.— : — : —
Annual Subscriptions	— : — : —
Contributions in the Plates	— : — : —
Total	£.

It was RESOLVED—

8. That the said sum of £.— : — : — be paid over to the Treasurer.

9. That the Treasurer be requested to remit to the Treasurer of the British and Foreign Bible Society the sum of £.— : — : —, on Moiety Account,† and request that the acknowledgment of all remittances may be addressed to the Cash Secretary, and that the orders of the Bible Secretary may be duly recognised.

[*The Names and Address of the respective Secretaries should be communicated to the Assistant Secretary and Depositary of the Parent Society.*]

10. That *B.A.*, *D.C.*, and *F.E.* be a Sub-Committee to examine and report to the next meeting the most suitable place for establishing a depository, and also the name of an eligible person to act as Collector. *B.A.* to be Secretary to this Sub-Committee.

11. That the Bible Secretary be authorised to procure a stamp, for the purpose of marking the Bibles and Testaments issued with the designation of this society.

12. That the Minute Secretary apply to the Depositary of the Parent Society for a regular supply of 200 copies of the "Monthly Extracts of Correspondence;" and that they be delivered, at the close of every committee meeting, to the District Committees, for distribution.

13. That *H. G.*, *K. I.*, and *M. L.* be appointed Auditors for the present year.

14. That this Committee do adjourn to the —— of ——, at —— o'clock precisely. [*Here insert the day and hour, according to the First By-Law.*]

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* These books should be of octavo size, and ruled according to the form recommended in page 162.

† For an explanation of this account, see Chap. I. Section VI.

Duties of the Secretaries after a Committee Meeting.

6. By strict attention to order and regularity, the whole of this business may be considered and arranged at the primary meeting of the Committee; but should any difficulty arise, the immediate subject of discussion may be referred to a Sub-Committee, and the General Committee should adjourn to receive their report. This is the more important, as the alteration of one part of the regulations now submitted will frequently require a corresponding alteration in others, which it will be difficult to make without deranging some important portion of the system.

Immediately after the meeting of the Committee, the Minute Secretary should send copies of the several Resolutions to the individuals whom they respectively concern, as suggested in the IXth Observation, Section III., annexing his signature, officially, to each; and a form of the Monthly District Report (*see Specimen, Section* V.) to each District Secretary.—The notices of the next meeting should be sent to the members, at least two or three days previous to that on which the Committee are to meet.—The Minutes of the first meeting should be transcribed into the "Fair Minute Book;" in the first page of which the names of the members should be entered, with columns to denote their attendance, as recommended in the Specimen, Section V.; and an Agenda* be prepared, to lay before the Chairman at the next meeting of the Committee.

7. The regular business of the *Second* Meeting is embraced by the following Minutes. It will be perceived they are numbered successively after those of the first committee meeting, the last resolution of which was 14;—by this plan of continuing the numbers consecutively throughout the book, any Minute is easily referred to, and much valuable time saved.†

At every Committee Meeting, the Minutes should be first read connectively; and, when confirmed, the business arising out of each should be successively considered. It is the Chairman's duty to prevent the introduction of any other business until that immediately before the Committee is disposed of, and a Minute regularly adopted, and entered by the secretary.

* See Specimen, p. 10.

† If two or three pages at the end of the Minute Book be used as an index to the Minutes, the facility of reference will be still greater.

Proceedings of the *Second* Committee Meeting.

At the *Second* Meeting of the Committee, held ——— of ——— 18—;

PRESENT:

A. B. in the Chair;

And those Members whose names are marked off in the list.

The Minutes of the last Meeting having been read, it was RESOLVED—

15. That the said Minutes be confirmed. *

16. The Minute Secretary reported, that the latter part of the 1st Minute had been complied with; and that Copies of the By-Laws were now on the table, for the supply of any of the members who had not received those intended for them.

17. The Minute Secretary reported, that the requisite account-books, forms of reports, and other papers, had been procured, pursuant to the 2d Minute. And that he had sent to the secretary of each District Committee a ruled collecting-book, forms of the District Monthly Report, and a supply of printed papers for circulation, pursuant to the 5th Minute.

18. The Minute Secretary reported, that the 7th Minute had been complied with, and that copies of the Rules and Regulations were on the table, for those members who wished for a further supply.

19. The Cash Secretary reported, that the 8th Minute had been complied with.

20. The Cash Secretary produced an acknowledgment signed by the Accountant of the Parent Society, for the sum of £.——, on Moiety account, voted by the 9th Minute; and reported, that he had entered the same to the Debit of the British and Foreign Bible Society, and to the Credit of the Treasurer.

21. *B. A.*, on behalf of the Sub-Committee appointed by the 10th Minute, presented the following Report; viz.

"To the Committee of the ——— Auxiliary Bible Society:

"We, your Sub-Committee, appointed to examine and report relative to the most suitable place for establishing a depository, and the most eligible person to act as collector, have made particular inquiries relative to both subjects, and unanimously recommend *Y. Z.* of No. —, ——— Street, who has tendered his services as gratuitous Depositary. The same individual offers to engage as Collector, at an allowance of 4 per cent. on the donations and annual subscriptions received by him; and proposes the security of *O. N.* and *Q. P.* for the trust reposed in him. He will be in attendance this evening, to give any further explanation which the Committee may require.

B. A.
D. C.
F. E."

"——— of ——— 18—

The said Report having been twice read, and considered, it was RESOLVED—

22. That the recommendation of the Sub-Committee be adopted; and that *Y. Z.* be hereby appointed Depositary and Collector of this society, on his handing to the Minute Secretary the requisite security.

* Unless any correction be necessary; in which case the Minute requiring alteration must be excepted. For instance; if any change in the appointment of one of the District Committees be requisite, the 15th Minute should be thus expressed: "That the said Minutes be confirmed, with the exception of the 4th:" and the necessary correction is made when the three preceding Minutes are disposed of.

Proceedings of the *Second* Committee Meeting.

23. That the Bible Secretary arrange with the Depositary the mode of keeping the Bibles and Testaments, and the accounts of receipts and deliveries.

24. That the Cash Secretary furnish the Depositary with a list of the subscribers entitled to purchase Bibles and Testaments at the reduced prices, specifying their respective extent of privilege.

25. The Bible Secretary reported, that the 11th Minute was complied with.

26. The Minute Secretary reported, that the 12th Minute was complied with; and that 200 copies of the last number of the "Monthly Extracts of Correspondence" were now on the table.

27. The Treasurer presented his monthly report, by which it appeared, that the balance now in his hands is £.——.

28. The depository not being yet opened, no report was presented from the Depositary.

29. The reports of the District Committees having been called for, in regular order, were severally presented and * read: when it was resolved— That the said reports be received.

30. The Cash Secretary reported, that the amount paid in by the respective District Committees at the present meeting, is as follows:—

	Donations.			Ann. Subscript.			Total.		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
District No. 1.	23	0	0	12	12	0	35	12	0
D°. ... 2.	10	10	0	5	15	6	16	5	6
D°. ... 3.	2	2	0	26	10	0	28	12	0
D°. ... 4.	—	—	—	11	11	0	11	11	0
D°. ... 5.	—	—	—	31	10	0	31	10	0
D°. ... 6.	15	0	0	18	18	0	33	18	0
D°. ... 7.	20	0	0	20	10	0	40	10	0
D°. ... 8.	12	12	0	36	7	6	48	19	6
D°. ... 9.	—	—	—	10	10	0	10	10	0
D°. ...10.	5	0	0	22	1	0	27	1	0
D°. ...11.	7	7	0	13	13	0	21	0	0
D°. ...12.	10	0	0	7	7	0	17	7	0
Total . . £.	105	11	0	217	5	0	322	16	0

RESOLVED—

31. That the said sum of 322*l.* 16*s.* be paid over to the treasurer.

32. The Third District Committee having reported, that there is a favora-

* When any District Committee omit to present a report, the following Resolution should be adopted, and a copy sent to the district secretary: "The —— District Committee, having omitted to present a report this month, the members are earnestly requested to be more circumspect in future, as the welfare of the society depends on a strict adherence to the rules."

Proceedings *after* the Committee Meeting.

ble opening for the establishment of a Bible Association in their district; it was RESOLVED,—

That *R. S.*, *T. V.*, and *W. X.*, who have kindly offered their services, be added to the Third District Committee, until this desirable object be accomplished;—that the District Secretary arrange an early day of meeting with his colleagues, and give notice to the secretaries;—and that the Minute Secretary supply the Third District Committee with an adequate number of copies of the "Advantages,"* and such other papers, explanatory of the design, as may appear necessary.

33. The Cash Secretary presented the following bills:—

	£.	s.	d.
M. N. for expenses of fitting up Town-hall for the General Meeting	5	3	6
O. P. for printing and advertising	2	16	4
Cash Secretary, for postage and incidental expenses .	1	2	8

The said bills were referred to the auditors.

34. That the Treasurer be requested to remit to the Treasurer of the British and Foreign Bible Society the sum of £.—— on Moiety account.

35. That this Committee adjourn to the — of ——, at — o'clock precisely.

8. Before the resolution of adjournment is moved, the Minute Secretary should distribute the "Monthly Extracts" and other papers laid on the table. It will also save considerable time and trouble, if the members of District and Sub-Committees avail themselves of the opportunities afforded, monthly, to make their arrangements for meeting, to carry into effect the objects of their appointment. At the close of the Committee, the auditors may make any requisite inquiry of the secretaries, &c. relative to bills referred to them: and, as the collector is generally in attendance on these occasions, any necessary instructions may be given to him.

9. After every Committee Meeting, the Minute Secretary proceeds according to the suggestions contained in the 6th division of this section. The Cash Secretary takes charge of the treasurer's report, and the reports of the District Committees; and after making the requisite entries in his books, marks each as "entered," and returns them to the Minute Secretary, by whom they are pasted in the Guard-book, in which the Depositary's reports are also preserved. As all these reports are placed in their order of date, the greatest facility of reference is attained. It will be recollected, that, by the XIVth By-Law, the secretaries are *ex-officio* members of all Sub-Committees, and consequently of the respective District Committees; their occasional attendance at which has been, in numerous instances, of considerable advantage. It may not, however, be improper to observe, that this attendance should never supersede the diligent discharge of

* See Appendix, No. VII.

their more immediate official duties, on which the welfare of the society so materially depends: but prompt and systematic attention will leave many hours of leisure unemployed by these duties, which may be profitably appropriated to the more local details of the society. The secretaries of a Bible Society should always exhibit a practical illustration of that maxim, "*Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with all thy might.*"

As the society may be considered as completely organized at the Second Meeting of the Committee, it is unnecessary to follow it through the subsequent stages. The specimen of the Minute Book, in Section V. of this Chapter, contains the requisite Minutes in reference to an anniversary meeting of the society; and any additional observations which are considered necessary will be submitted in Section VII.

SECTION V.

THE FORMS OF THE BOOKS AND PAPERS, AND THE MODE OF KEEPING THE ACCOUNTS.

*** *In all the Specimens contained in this Section, the entries in Italics are to be considered as Manuscript.*

NO. I.—MINUTE BOOK.

1. The Rough Minute Book requires no particular observation, it being designed only to insure the neatness and regularity of the Fair Minute Book, into which the proceedings of the Committee are transcribed immediately after every meeting.

2. The most convenient size for the "Fair Minute Book" is large post quarto; and if it contain four quires of paper, ruled with faint lines, it will serve for several years. It should be bound in stout calf, and lettered. Six or eight pages at the beginning may be ruled, according to the following Specimen, to contain a register of the attendance of the members: viz.

NAMES, 1821.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
A. B. Treasurer....	*p.*	*p.*		*p.*	*p.*		*p.*	*p.*	*p.*	*p.*	*p.*	*p.*
*D. E. MinuteSecret*y.	*p.*	*p.*	*p.*	*p.*	*p.*	*p.*	*p.*	*p.*	*p.*	*p.*	*p.*	*p.*
F. G. Cash ditto....	*p.*	*p.*	*p.*	*p.*	*p.*	*p.*	*p.*	*p.*	*p.*	*p.*	*p.*	*p.*
H. I. Bible ditto....	*p.*	*p.*	*p.*	*p.*	*p.*	*p.*	*p.*	*p.*	*p.*	*p.*	*p.*	*p.*
C. D.	*p.*		*p.*	*p.*			*p.*	*p.*	*p.*		*p.*	*p.*
E. F.		*p.*	*p.*	*p.*		*p.*	*p.*	*p.*	*p.*	*p.*		*p.*

Proceedings of the Committee in reference to an Annual Meeting.

When the Minute Secretary calls over the list at the hour specified in the By-Laws, a blank is left in the column of the month opposite to the name of every member who does not answer; and thus the three-fourths who are eligible for re-election, by the Fifteenth General Rule, is easily ascertained.

The remainder of the book is ruled throughout, so as to leave a margin about an inch in width, for the numbers of the Minutes.

3. The following Specimen, in addition to the Minutes of the First and Second Committee Meetings, contained in the preceding Section, will sufficiently illustrate the mode of conducting this part of the business, while it explains the measures adopted in reference to the annual meeting.

It is necessary to premise, that the Minutes are those of an Auxiliary Society, with which a Ladies' Branch is connected; and that this latter institution holds its annual meeting jointly with that of the Auxiliary Society. It would be superfluous to insert those Minutes which relate to the regular business of the Committee, and which, as a matter of course, precede the adoption of the following:—

430. The Minute Secretary having reminded the Committee that the annual meeting of this society falls in course, according to the Fourteenth General Rule, on the —— of the ensuing month; it was RESOLVED—

That *A.B.*, *C.D.*, and *E.F.*, be a Sub-Committee, to engage a suitable place for the annual meeting, and to see it properly prepared for the occasion.—*A.B.* to be secretary.

431. That the Minute Secretary be requested to prepare the annual report, and to submit the same to the adjournment of this meeting.*

432. It appearing that the balance in the treasurer's hands is £. ——; and that the stock of Bibles and Testaments, and the state of the society, justify the vote; RESOLVED—

That the treasurer be requested to remit the said sum of £. —— to the Committee of the British and Foreign Bible Society for the general objects of that institution, no return being required thereon.

433. The Cash Secretary having presented the sum of £. —— as a contribution from the Ladies' Branch of this society for the general object of the Parent Institution; RESOLVED—

That the said sum of £. —— be paid over to the treasurer; and that he be requested to remit the same to the Committee of the British and Foreign Bible Society, as a contribution from the Ladies' Branch, no return being required thereon.

434. That the auditors submit to the adjournment of this meeting an abstract of the treasurer's account for the year ending 31st instant, signed by them, after having been compared with the Cash Secretary's books.

435. That the Bible Secretary submit to the adjournment of this meeting a statement of the Depositary's receipts and deliveries for the year ending 31st instant, and of the stock then on hand.

* This important duty does not *necessarily* devolve on one of the secretaries, nor is it always confided to an individual; but the plan here recommended will, generally, be found the most expedient.

Subscription Book.

436. That the Minute Secretary address a letter to the President, requesting he will take the chair at the annual meeting; and that he also invite the several Vice-Presidents to attend on the occasion.

437. That the Minute Secretary address a letter to the Assistant Secretary of the Parent Society, soliciting the attendance of one or more of the Secretaries of that institution at the annual meeting; and that he also invite the following gentlemen: * viz.

[*Here follow the Names.*]

438. That the Minute Secretary inform the Committee of the Ladies' Branch of the time fixed for the annual meeting; and request their furnishing him with their annual report, to be read immediately after that of this society, and a list of the officers and committee for the ensuing year.

439. That the Minute Secretary present to the adjournment of this meeting a list of those members who are eligible for re-election on the Committee; and that the ballot for the election of new members to be proposed to the General Meeting begin at — o'clock precisely.

440. That the secretaries be a Sub-Committee, for the purpose of giving publicity to the annual meeting, by means of placards, hand-bills, and advertisements; and that they send an adequate number of hand-bills to every District Committee for circulation.

441. That the Minute Secretary be requested to prepare an order of proceeding† for the annual meeting, and submit the same to the adjournment of this Committee.

442. That the following gentlemen be a Sub-Committee of accommodation, to receive the president, vice-presidents, and visitors, and attend to the order and convenience of the company.—[*Here follow the names of six or eight members, one of whom is nominated secretary.*]

443. That *G. H.*, *I. K.*, *L. M.*, and *N. O.*, attend with plates to receive contributions at the close of the meeting.

444. That the Cash and Bible Secretaries attend to receive subscribers' names at the close of the meeting.

445. That this meeting adjourn to the of next month, at o'clock precisely, to receive the reports of the secretaries and auditors, and finally arrange the preliminary business of the General Meeting.

NO. II.—SUBSCRIPTION BOOK.

1. This book is of the same size with the Fair Minute Book, and should be strongly bound and lettered. It is designed to be a register of all the individual contributors to the society, and to save the time and space which would be required were an account opened for each in the Leger. To facilitate the reference to any particular name, it is cut in the form of an alphabetical index; from four to ten folios, or double pages, being allotted to each letter, according to order.

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* It may not be improper to observe, that the postage of all letters containing invitations, or relative to the business of the society, should be paid by the Cash Secretary, who includes such charges in a quarterly account of incidental expenses.

† The order of proceeding is inserted at the end of this section.

Observations thereon.—Leger.—Mode of keeping the various Accounts.

2. The following Specimen, from the portion of the book allotted to A, contains the entries on the left-hand page; and as the opposite page is ruled in like manner, omitting the columns of "name" and "residence," the whole folio exhibits the state of the subscription for five years.

NAME.	RESIDENCE.	When paid.	Donations	Annual Subscr.	When paid.	Donat.	Annual Subscr.
		1819.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	1820.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Adams, Wm.	*17, Broad Street*	14 *Sept.*	10 10 0	1 1 0	29 *Sept.*	. . .	1 1 0
Angier, Mrs.	*Richmond Place* .	...	. . .	2 2 0	...	5 5 0	2 2 0
Angel, Thomas	*Colbert House* ...	...	5 5 0	1 1 0	...	. . .	1 1 0
Aubrey, Henry	*Bank*	...	20 0 0	. . .	...	. . .	2 2 0
Atkins, Thomas	*West Street*	22 ..	. . .	2 2 0	...	. . .	2 2 0
Atcheson, John	*Castle Street* ...	...	2 2 0	1 1 0	6 *Oct.*	. . .	1 1 0
Allman, Dr.	*King's Square* ...	29 ..	10 10 0	1 1 0	...	. . .	1 1 0
Anthony, Capt.	*Parade Place* ...	30 ..	5 0 0	2 2 0	...	5 5 0	2 2 0

3. From this book the Cash Secretary annually transcribes the list which is given to the collector, who returns an account of his receipts, with the names of all subscribers who have paid: the requisite entries are then made in the column of the year by the Cash Secretary, who includes the amount received in his Monthly Report to the Committee. When the collector finally returns his list, it is compared with the Subscription Book; and the names of those subscribers who appear to have declined are handed to the Secretaries of the Districts within which they respectively reside, pursuant to the XXIId By-Law.

NO. III.—LEGER.

1. This book should be of folio size, containing about four quires, strongly bound and lettered. Instead of being ruled in the common form—the Debit side occupying one page, and the Credit side the opposite—the whole account may be on one page, by which a considerable saving will be effected. Many Auxiliary Societies keep a Cash-Book in addition to the Leger; but this, it is submitted, is an unnecessary source of expense and trouble, as the latter may be so arranged as to answer every purpose of a Cash Book; and thus all the pecuniary transactions of the society will be concentrated in the Leger, and the reference be materially facilitated.

2. In order to exhibit the mode of keeping the various accounts, the following Specimens are supposed to be extracted from the Leger of a society, which, in addition to a Branch Society and

Specimen of Account with Treasurer.

Association, has likewise a Ladies' Branch connected with it. In opening the respective accounts, care should be taken to allot several folios to each, that the necessity of frequent reference to a distant folio may be obviated. An alphabetical index should be kept inside the cover.

The society in question is supposed to have been some time established, and to hold its annual meeting in September:—the accounts are consequently balanced on the 31st of August. The entries of the last six months will sufficiently illustrate the subject.

3. SPECIMEN OF THE TREASURER'S ACCOUNT.

Dr. *A.B.* Treasurer of the ——— Auxiliary Bible Society. Cr.

1820.		MB.	£.	s.	d.	1820.		MB.	£.	s.	d.
7 *Mar.*	*To Cash*.....	22	1370	10	0	14 *Mar.*	*By Brit. & Foreign Bible Society*	26	1300	0	0
12 *Apr.*	*Ditto*	37	160	0	0						
9 *June*	*Ditto*	83	212	16	4	17 *Apr.*	*John Brown*....	39	3	7	6
8 *July*	*Ditto*	117	130	1	1	.....	*Cash Secretary*	....	4	3	2
7 *Aug.*	*Ditto*	129	271	3	6	10 *Jun.*	*Brit. & Foreign Bible Society*	84	400	0	0
	Do. from Ladies' Branch	136	500	0	0						
						8 *Aug.*	*Collect. poundage*	131	26	4	6
							James Smith ...	132	7	7	4
						31	*Brit. & Foreign Bible Society*	143	403	8	5
							Do. on account of Ladies' Branch	144	500	0	0
		£.	2644	10	11			£.	2644	10	11

It will be perceived, that the plan here recommended is founded on the presumption that all the pecuniary concerns are transacted through the medium of the Treasurer, by which the greatest possible simplicity is given to the accounts.

The column headed MB. is designed to contain the numbers of the Minutes which authorise every payment to or by the Treasurer.

4. SPECIMEN OF ACCOUNT WITH PARENT INSTITUTION.

Dr. The British and Foreign Bible Society. Cr.

1820.		MB.	£.	s.	d.	1820.		DB.	£.	s.	d.
14 *Mar.*	*Remittance on Purchase Account* ...	26	1300	0	0	2 *Apr.*	*By Bibles & Tests.*	1	117	14	2
						10 *June*	*Moiety of Remittance*..	1	200	0	0
10 *June*	*Do. on Moiety Account*	84	400	0	0	17	*Bibles & Tests*..	1	188	18	4
						1 *Aug.*	*Ditto Ditto*	1	788	15	0
31 *Aug.*	*Do.(no return required)*	143	403	8	5	31	*General Object: (no return required)*.....	....	403	8	5
							Balance due on Purchase Acct.	....	204	12	6
							Ditto on Moiety Account.....	....	200	0	0
		£.	2103	8	5			£.	2103	8	5
1 *Sept.*	*Balance due on Purchase Account* ...		204	12	6						
	Do. on Moiety Account..		200	0	0						

The figures in the column MB., on the Debit side, denote the numbers of the Minutes which authorise the remittances; and those in the column DB., on the Credit side, the folio of the "Depositary's Book" which contains the particulars of the invoice of Bibles and Testaments received. The entries at the Credit side, under the head of "General Object," exhibit the amount annually appropriated to this purpose.—Thus £.400 having been remitted on Moiety Account, in the year ending 31st of August, and the Auxiliary Society having a claim under the Ninth General Rule to a return of Bibles and Testaments to one-half this amount, the other moiety, with the sum of 403*l.* 8*s.* 5*d.* specifically voted, goes for the general and Foreign purposes of the Parent Institution.

Specimens of Account with a Branch Society, and a Bible Association.

5. SPECIMEN OF ACCOUNT WITH A BRANCH SOCIETY.

Dr. The ——— Branch Society. Cr.

1820.		DB.	£. s. d.	1820.		MB.	£. s. d.
24 *June*	*To Bibles and Testaments*	1	47.18.4	9 *June*	*By Cash*.....	82	112.16.0
9 *July*	*Do. & Do.* ...	1	31.16.8	8 *July*	*Do. on account of the —— Association for Bibles and Testaments*	116	31.16.8
31 *Aug.*	*General object; viz. proportion of Moiety Account* ..	....	56.8.0				
	Balance due	....	8. 9. 8				
		£.	144.12.8			£.	144.12.8
				1 *Sept.*	*By Balance due* ...		8. 9.8

The figures in the column DB. on the Debit side, refer to the folio of the "Depositary's Book" which contains the particulars of the Bibles and Testaments delivered; and the entries in the column MB. on the Credit side, denote the respective numbers of those Minutes which recognise payments by the Branch Society.

The connexion between an Auxiliary Society and a Branch Society is precisely similar to that between the former and the Parent Institution, as will be more fully explained in Section VI.—A moiety of the amount remitted is consequently appropriated annually to the general object, unless it be made on purchase account, for the supply of an association in connexion with the Branch Society; when the whole amount, if required, is returned in Bibles and Testaments at cost prices.

6. SPECIMEN OF ACCOUNT WITH A BIBLE ASSOCIATION.

Dr. The ——— Bible Association. Cr.

1820.		DB.	£. s. d.	1820.		MB.	£. s. d.
11 *June*	*To Bibles & Testaments*	1	37.12.4	9 *June*	*By Cash*.....	82	45. 0.0
7 *Aug.*	*Do. & Do.* ...	1	20.13.4	7 *Aug.*	*Ditto*.....	128	20. 0.0
31 ...	*Genl. Object*	....	10.10.0		*Do. (no return required)* ...	...	10.10.0
	Balance due	....	6.14.4				
		£.	75.10.0			£.	75.10.0
				1 *Sept.*	*By Balance due* ...	....	6.14.4

The references in the columns DB. and MB. are explained in the observation under the preceding Specimen.

Specimen of Account with a Ladies' Branch Society.

The connexion between a Bible Association and an Auxiliary, or Branch, Society, so far as relates to the pecuniary transactions, is simply this:—The Association has a claim for the return of Bibles and Testaments, at cost prices, to the whole amount of the money remitted, for the supply of its local necessities; but is at liberty to appropriate its surplus funds, or any portion of them, in aid of the general object. The assistance derived from this comparatively humble source is very considerable, and may be expected progressively to increase, as the wants of our own population become satisfied. There is something peculiarly attractive in this view of the subject:—we here behold the tendency and practical effects of the system; and in contemplating the triumphs of that Christian charity, under the influence of which the poor man cheerfully contributes his weekly penny that some benighted heathen may possess the holy scriptures, we are led to consider what personal sacrifices *we* have made; what indulgence *we* have relinquished; and how far *we* have co-operated in promoting the cause of our GOD and SAVIOUR.

7. SPECIMEN OF ACCOUNT WITH A LADIES' BRANCH.

Dr. Ladies' Branch of the —— Auxiliary Bible Society. Cr.

1820.		DB.	£. s. d.	1820.		MB.	£. s. d.
4 *May*	*To Bibles and Testaments*	1	75.16.10	7 *Mar.*	*By Cash, on Purchase Account*	21	370.10.0
16 ...	*Do. and Do.*	1	36. 9. 2	7 *Aug.*	*Do. Do.*	127	200. 0.0
31 *Aug.*	*General Object*		500. 0. 0	....	*Do. (no return required)* ...	126	500. 0.0
	Balance due		458. 4. 0				
		£.	1070.10. 0			£.	1070.10:0
				1 *Sept.*	*By Balance due* ..		458. 4.0

The references in the columns DB. and MB. have been already explained in the observation on Specimen 5.

The constitution of a Ladies' Branch of an Auxiliary Society will be fully explained in Chapter VII.—It is only necessary, in explanation of this specimen, to observe, that it constitutes the medium of communication between the several female associations of an extensive district and the Auxiliary Society; and that it possesses an unlimited right to purchase at cost prices, on behalf of the connected associations, for the supply of the local wants. As the depository of the Auxiliary Society is always in the same town, that of the Ladies' Branch does not require an extensive stock, as it can be supplied from time to time according to the demand. The assistance given to the general cause by the Ladies' Branches of the Liverpool, Plymouth, Manchester, Hull, and Newcastle Societies, will be more distinctly adverted to in the proper place.

Specimen of Account with Subscribers;—and with Collector.

8. SPECIMEN OF THE PRIVILEGE ACCOUNT.

Dr. Annual Subscribers to —— Auxiliary Bible Society. Cr.

1820.		D.B.	£. s. d.	1820.		M.B.	£. s. d.
31 *Mar.*	*To Sales, this Month*	1	1. 0.7	12 *Apr.*	*By Cash, & Depositary,*	36	1. 0.7
30 *Apr.*	*D°. D°.*	1	.16.6	6 *May*	*D°. D°.*	47	.16.6
31 *May*	*D°. D°.*	1	.14.9	9 *June*	*D°. D°.*	82	.14.9
30 *June*	*D°. D°.*	1	.11.1	8 *July*	*D°. D°.*	115	.11.1
31 *July*	*D°. D°.*	1	.11.2	7 *Aug.*	*D°. D°.*	126	.11.2
31 *Aug.*	*D°. D°.*	1	.13.3	31	*D°. D°.*	141	.13.3
		£.	4. 7.4				4. 7.4

The figures in the columns DB. and MB. have been already explained.

Where Bible Associations are established and properly conducted, the members of Auxiliary Societies will find little if any occasion to avail themselves of their privilege of purchasing at reduced prices. They have only to refer applicants, or poor persons, to the Committee of the Association, or one of its members; and if, on personal investigation, they appear suitable objects, they are recommended accordingly.

It is worthy the serious consideration of those who are in the habit of exercising this privilege, how far they interfere with the design of Bible Associations, while they diminish the resources of the Parent Institution.

9. SPECIMEN OF THE COLLECTOR'S ACCOUNT.

Dr. *E.F.* Collector of the —— Auxiliary Bible Society. Cr.

1820.		SB.	£. s. d.	1820.		M.B.	£. s. d.
27 *Feb.*	*Donations & Subscriptions this month*	78	426.16.0	7 *Mar.*	*By Cash per Cash Secretary*	21	426.16.0
				12 *Apr.*	*Ditto Ditto*	36	160. 0.0
30 *Mar.*	*Ditto Ditto*	78	160. 0.0	9 *June*	*Ditto Ditto*	82	55. 0.4
31 *May.*	*Ditto Ditto*	78	55. 0.4				
		£.	641.16.4			£.	641.16.4

Specimen of Account of Incidental Expenses.

The figures in the column SB., on the Debit side, refer to a monthly summary at the end of the "Subscription Book," in which the Cash Secretary enters, from the Collector's list, the total amount received that month. The references in the column MB. have been already explained. As all payments are made by orders on the Treasurer, the Collector's poundage is included in "Incidental Expenses."

10. SPECIMEN OF ACCOUNT OF INCIDENTAL EXPENSES.

Dr. Incidental Expenses. Cr.

1820.		MB.	£. s. d.	1820.		Fo.	£. s. d.
*Apr.*17.	*J. Brown, Printer*	39	3. 7. 6	*Aug.*31.	*Annual Statement*	88	41. 2. 6
.....	*Cash Secretary, Sundries....*	39	4. 3. 2				
Aug. 8.	*E. F., Collector* ..	131	26. 4. 6				
.....	*Ja*s*. Smith, Account Books & Papers for 2 Associations*	132	7. 7. 4				
		£.	41. 2. 6			£.	41. 2. 6

The entries in the column MB. on the Debit side, refer to the Minutes authorising those respective payments; and that in the column Fo. on the Credit side, to the folio of the Leger containing a copy of the annual audited account, which forms the next specimen.

It will be found highly conducive to the interests of Auxiliary and Branch Societies, to defray the expenses attending the establishment and organization of their connected associations; not only on the grounds of economy—which should always be studied—but because it will promote that mutual confidence and good understanding so essential to success. It is eventually the same thing, in a pecuniary point of view, whether an association remit 50*l.*, after paying 5*l.* for account books, &c., or remit 55*l.*, and have the 5*l.* paid by the Auxiliary Society; but it is of material importance that an association should commence its important labours without any weight, except that of obligation to the society with which it is connected.

Annual Statement of Receipts and Payments.

11. SPECIMEN OF AN ANNUAL STATEMENT.

Dr. *A.B.* Treasurer of the —— Auxiliary Bible Society. Cr.

1819,		£. s. d.	1819,		£. s. d.
Aug. 31. to 1820, *Aug.* 31.	*Annual Subscriptions*.....	641.16. 4	*Aug.* 31. to 1820, *Aug.* 31.	*By the British and Foreign Bible Society; viz.*	
	Donations.....	707.14. 7		*On Purchase Account*..... 1300 0 0	
	—— *Branch Society; viz.*			*On Moiety Account*, 400 0 0	
	On Moiety Acct. .112 16 0			*For General Object*, 403 8 5	
	On Purchase ditto 31 16 8			*For Dº. from the Ladies' Branch* 500 0 0	
		144.12. 8			2603. 8. 5
	—— *Association; viz.*			*Incidental Expenses of Printing, Postage, Collector's Poundage, Account Books, Carriage of Bibles, &c. &c.*	41. 2. 6
	On Purchase Acct...65 0 0				
	For General Object 10 10 0				
		75.10. 0			
	The Ladies' Branch; viz.				
	On Purch. Acct...570 10 0				
	For Genl. Object, 500 0 0				
		1070.10. 0			
	Sales to Subscribers	4. 7. 4			
	£.	2644.10.11		£.	2644.10.11

—— 31*st of August*, 1820.

H. G.
K. I. } *Auditors.*
M. L.

A few folios at the end of the Leger are appropriated to these annual statements, which should be regularly signed by the Auditors, who present a copy of each to the Committee, for insertion in the Annual Report, pursuant to the Xth By-Law. It will be observed, that this statement is equivalent to the balance-sheet of a common leger.

NO. IV.—BIBLE SECRETARY'S ORDER BOOK.

I. This book may be about the size of the "Subscription Book," (*No.* 2. *of this Section*); but made to open lengthways, like a merchant's Bill-book. It should be half-bound, and the forms, of which it wholly consists, printed on strong paper.

II. Those who are concerned in conducting the practical details of Bible Societies, are aware of the importance as well as diffi-

culty of preserving a regular and correct account of the receipts and deliveries of Bibles and Testaments; owing alike to the similarity of appearance which different editions present, and to the want of a suitable form for orders and bills of parcels. These are, generally, made out on loose pieces of paper, and no check is provided by which their accuracy is ascertained. Hence the great difficulty of making the stock-account balance at the end of the year, and the apparent difference which often exists between an Auxiliary Society's statement of the issues, and the statements of its connected societies and associations, as to the aggregate number of copies received. This difference, it is true, is comparatively trifling; and more frequently relates to the *description* of Bibles or Testaments, than to the total *number* received; but it must be satisfactory to all concerned to have a plan by which the risk of error is materially diminished, if not entirely obviated.

III. In the Specimen now submitted for adoption, the reader will consider all the entries in *Italics*, with the *number* and *amount* of Bibles and Testaments, as *manuscript*; and the remainder of the form, as printed.

When the Bible Secretary receives an order for Bibles and Testaments, he refers to his colleague, the Cash Secretary, and ascertains that the Branch Society or Association giving the order has remitted the amount. If this be the case, he first fills up the form A, and calculates the amount, which he enters; he next fills up and signs the form B, which is the authority on which the Depositary acts; and lastly fills up and signs the form C, which is the bill of parcels. He then cuts off, and sends to the Depositary, the paper containing B and C; retaining A in the book, as a permanent check and voucher. When the Depositary receives the paper, he examines the calculations in the form C, which he cuts off and delivers with the Bibles and Testaments specified; retaining and filing the order B, as *his* voucher.

Blank lines are left for any Bibles or Testaments in *Foreign* languages which may be ordered.

A.

No. 47. *4th of May*, 1820.

To *Mrs. Smith*,

For account of *The Ladies' Branch.*

No.	BIBLES.	Amount. £.	s.	d.
2	S. Pica .....MR	1	9	6
12	S. Pica.....	6	12	0
50	Long Primer	23	15	0
	Brevier .....MR			
50	Brevier.....	18	10	10
	Minion			
	Nonpareil			
6	Minion Pocket ...	1	13	6
6	Nonpareil Pocket	1	8	6
	TESTAMENTS.			
50	Pica.....Calf	10	16	8
	Ditto .....Sheep			
30	Long Primer Calf	4	17	6
	Ditto.. ...Sheep			
	Brevier ....Calf			
	Ditto ..... Sheep			
100	Ditto. .....Cloth	6	13	4
	Minion P. ..Calf			
	Ditto ..P. ..Sheep			
	£.	75	16	10

B.

No. 47. _____ Auxiliary Bible Society.

To *Mr. Brown*, Depositary.

Deliver to *Mrs. Smith*,

For account of *The Ladies' Branch.*

No.	BIBLES.
2	Small Pica, Marginal References.
12	Small Pica.
50	Long Primer.
	Brevier, Marginal References.
50	Brevier.
	Minion.
	Nonpareil.
6	Minion Pocket.
6	Nonpareil Pocket.
	TESTAMENTS.
50	Pica .....Calf.
	Ditto .....Sheep.
30	Long Primer .....Calf.
	Ditto .....Sheep.
	Brevier..... ..Calf.
	Ditto .....Sheep.
100	Ditto .....Cloth.
	Minion Pocket.....Calf.
	Ditto Ditto .....Sheep.

John Jones, Bible Secretary.
4th of May, 1820.

C.

No. 47. _____ Auxiliary Bible Society. *4th of May*, 1820.

Herewith you will receive,

For account of *The Ladies' Branch.*

No.	BIBLES.	at s.	d.	Amount. £.	s.	d.
2	Small Pica, Marginal References.....	14	9	1	9	6
12	Small Pica	11	0	6	12	0
50	Long Primer	9	6	23	15	0
	Brevier, Marginal References	11	10			
50	Brevier	7	5	18	10	10
	Minion	6	2			
	Nonpareil.....	4	4			
6	Minion-type, Pocket.....	5	7	1	13	6
6	Nonpareil-type, Pocket	4	9	1	8	6
	TESTAMENTS.					
50	Pica ..... bound in Calf	4	4	10	16	8
	Ditto .....Sheep	3	4			
30	Long Primer.....Calf	3	3	4	17	6
	Ditto Ditto.....Sheep	2	3			
	Brevier.....Calf	2	4			
	Ditto..... ....Sheep	1	7			
100	Ditto..... .....Cloth	1	4	6	13	4
	Minion-type, Pocket.....Calf	2	1			
	Ditto .....Ditto.....Sheep	1	6			

John Jones, Bible Secretary.
John Brown, Depositary.

To *Mrs. Smith*. £. 75 16 10

SPECIMEN OF THE ORDER BOOK.

NO. V.—DEPOSITARY'S BOOK.

1. This Book should be of folio size, containing two or three quires strongly bound, and, like the "Order Book," made to open lengthways. It will appear from the Specimen subjoined, that it is designed to be a register of all proceedings relative to the receipts and issues of Bibles and Testaments; and that it is so constructed, as to render the duties of the Secretary and Depositary as easy and simple as possible. For this purpose, all the headings of the different columns are printed.

2. When the Bible Secretary receives an invoice of Bibles and Testaments, he first ascertains, by reference to the Depositary, its agreement with the number and description of the copies received. The latter then makes the requisite entry at the Debit side, inserting the carrier's name, not only as a proper check on his account, but that the person answerable for any damage may be referred to if necessary.

The folio of the Leger, containing the account with the British and Foreign Bible Society, is inserted by the Cash Secretary.

SPE

1. Dr. BIBLES AND TESTAMENTS *RECEIVED.*

Date.	Leger Fo.	Carrier's Name.	BIBLES. SP—MR.	SP.	LP.	B—MR.	B.	M.	N.	MP.	NP.	TESTAMENTS. P—C.	P—S.	LP—C.	LP—S.	B—C.	B—S.	B—L.	MP—C.	MP—S.	Amount at Cost Prices.
1820.																					£. s. d.
2 *April*	12	*J. Wood*	10	50			50	50		20	20	100	20		50	50			20		117 14 2
17 *June*	12	*Ditto*			100	20	100		100				200	100			100	200			188 18 4
1 *Aug.*	12	*Jones & Co.*		400	300		300	200	300			400	400			300					788 15 0
			10	450	400	20	450	250	400	20	20	500	620	100	50	350	100	200	20		1095 7 6
Sept. 1st.		*STOCK*	1	404	290	4	311	200	380	4	4	428	438	20		320	10	100	10		839 5 4

of the mode of keeping the Bible Account.

3. When the Depositary receives an order for the delivery of Bibles and Testaments, he first ascertains the correctness of the bill of parcels *(Specimen* C. *of the "Order Book")*, and then makes the requisite entry at the Credit side *before* he delivers the books. The references to the several accounts in the Leger are entered by the Cash Secretary.

4. The stock should be taken, and the book balanced, annually, by the Bible Secretary, assisted by the Depositary; and the present stock brought forward to a new account, as in the specimen. It will be observed, that the amount of loss sustained by sales to subscribers, at reduced prices, must be added to the amount of sales and the value of the stock on hand, in order to balance the total amount at the Debit side.

5. The blank columns are left for Bibles and Testaments in foreign languages.

From this book the Depositary prepares his monthly report to the Committee.—(*See No. 7 of this section.*)

EN.

BIBLES AND TESTAMENTS *DELIVERED.* Cr. 1.

Date.	Leger Fo.	For Account of	BIBLES. SP—MR.	S.P.	L.P.	B—MR.	B.	M.	N.	M.P.	N.P.		TESTAMENTS. P—C.	P—S.	LP—C.	LP—S.	B—C.	B—S.	B—L.	MP—C.	MP—S.		Amount at Cost Prices.	Amount at Reduced Prices.
1820.																							£. s. d.	£. s. d.
March	51	*W. Clarke*	1			1																		1 0 7
April	51	*R. Fisher*		2																				16 6
May	41	*Ladies' Bran.*	2	12	50		50			6	6		50		30				100				75 16 10	
...	41	*Ditto*				15	10							100		50		20					36 9 2	
...	51	*H. Grant*		1									2											14 9
June	51	*E. Swaine*	1																					11 1
...	30	*—Association*			40		12		20					30	20			20					37 12 4	
...	21	*—Branch Soc.*		10	20		50	30							10		30						47 18 4	
July	51	*J. Harris*					2																	11 1
...	21	*—Branch Soc.*		20				20			10			50				50					31 16 8	
Aug.	51	*H. Rugman*		1										2										13 3
...	30	*—Association*	5				15			10			20		20					10			20 13 4	
...	—	*STOCK*	1	404	290	4	311	200	380	4	4		428	438	20		320	10	100	10			839 5 4	
		Loss on Sales																						1 8
			10	450	400	20	450	250	400	20	20		500	620	100	50	350	100	200	20			1089 12 0	5 15

List of English Bibles,—and Testaments.

6. On a blank leaf in the beginning of this book, the Depositary should transcribe the following explanation, and paste in the specimens of types, (*See Appendix, No.* IV.) which he will find of material use in promoting the facility of reference. *

	BIBLES.	Cost the Society. s.	d.	Price to Subscribers. s.	d.
SP—MR	Small Pica, royal paper, 8vo. with Marginal References	14	9	11	1
SP.	Small Pica, medium paper, 8vo.	11	0	8	3
LP.	Long Primer, demy paper, 8vo.	9	6	7	2
B—MR	Brevier, medium paper, Marginal References	11	10	9	6
B.	Brevier, demy paper, 8vo.	7	5	5	7
M.	Minion, crown paper, 8vo.	6	2	4	8
N.	Nonpareil, 12mo.	4	4	3	3
M.P.	Pocket, Minion-type	5	7	4	2
N.P.	Pocket, Nonpareil-type	4	9	3	7
	TESTAMENTS.				
P—C.	Pica . . . . . bound in Calf	4	4	3	3
P—S.	Pica . . . . . Sheep	3	4	2	6
LP—C.	Long Primer . . . . . Calf	3	3	2	5
LP—S.	Long Primer . . . . . Sheep	2	3	1	8
B—C.	Brevier . . . . . Calf	2	4	1	9
B—S.	Brevier . . . . . Sheep	1	7	1	2
B—L.	Brevier . . . . . Linen Cloth	1	4	1	0
MP—C.	Pocket, Minion-type . . . . . Calf	2	1	1	6
MP—S.	Pocket, Minion-type . . . . . Sheep	1	6	1	1

He may also find it of advantage to paste in the list of the various editions of the holy scriptures, in other languages, which constitutes No. II. of the Appendix.

NO. VI. TREASURER'S REPORT.

1. This report is presented to every monthly meeting of the Committee, pursuant to the XIIth By-Law. Although the payments to the Treasurer generally pass through the hands of the Cash

* The prices here specified, are those of 1820. While this Work was going through the press, a reduction was agreed on, to which reference will be made in Chap. VII. The object of this and similar specimens is, to point out the *mode* of conducting the business; and the secretaries of Auxiliary Societies will refer to the official notice of the Parent Institution, when entering the prices, which necessarily vary according to circumstances.

Secretary, it frequently happens, that new subscribers remit their contributions directly to the former; and of these, as well as all other receipts, this report is his official acknowledgment.

SPECIMEN.

N°. 13. * ———— AUXILIARY BIBLE SOCIETY.

The TREASURER's Report of Receipts and Disbursements from the *4th of January* to the *7th of February* 1820.

	RECEIVED.	£. s. d.
	Amount in hand, ℔ last Report	247.16.2
Jan. 13	From *Mr. J. Smith, Brook Street, Annual Subscription* .	2. 2. 0
17	*T. Williams, Esq. Haywood, Donation*	20. 0. 0
Feb. 4	*Cash Secretary, Subscriptions & Donations* . .	61.10. 0
	D°. . on account of the —— Branch Society .	100. 0. 0
	D°. . on account of the —— Association . . .	25. 0. 0
	D°. . on account of the Ladies' Branch . . .	200. 0. 0
		656. 8. 2

	PAID.	£. s. d.	
Jan. 5	To *the British and Foreign Bible Society*, ℔ *Vote of Committee*	200. 0. 0	
	Collector, for poundage, ℔ *D°.*	14.17. 0	
6	*Cash Secretary, Incidental Expenses*, ℔ *D°.*	4.13. 6	
7	*Rutter & Co. Stationers*, ℔ *D°.*	5. 5. 8	
			224.16. 2
Feb. 6	Balance in hand this day . . . £		431.12. 0

A. B. Treasurer.

NO. VII.—DEPOSITARY'S REPORT.

This Report is presented to every monthly meeting of the Committee, pursuant to the IXth By-Law, and is an abstract of the Depositary's Book. The blank columns are left for the insertion of Bibles and Testaments in foreign languages.

* These Reports should be numbered successively:—thus, the Report presented in March was No. 14. This observation is equally applicable to the two following Specimens.

SPECIMEN.

N°. 13. ——————— *Auxiliary Bible Society.*

THE DEPOSITARY'S MONTHLY REPORT OF BIBLES AND TESTAMENTS,

RECEIVED AND ISSUED FROM THE *9th* OF *June*, TO THE *8th* OF *July*, 1820.

	BIBLES.											TESTAMENTS.											Amount received from Subscribers.		
	SP. MR	SP	LP	B. MR	B.	M.	N.	M. P.	N. P.			P. C.	P. S.	LP C.	LP S.	B. C.	B. S.	B. L.	MP C.	MP S.			*L.*	*s.*	*d.*
Stock on hand, per last Report ...	6	35	50	4	90	50		14	14			48	120	70		50	80	100	20						
Received since last Report			100	20	100		100						200	100			100	200						
Total to account for.....	6	35	150	24	190	50	100	14	14			48	320	170		50	180	300	20					
Delivered since last Report; viz.																								
To *The* ——— *Association* ...			40		12		20						30	20			20							
The ——— *Branch Society*		10	20		50	30								10		30								
John Harris, Subscriber...					2																		11	2
Total issued.....		10	60		64	30	20						30	30		30	20						11	2
Remaining on hand this day....	6	25	90	24	126	20	80	14	14			48	290	140		20	160	300	20					

Signed, *E. F.* Depositary.

Monthly Report of District Committee.

NO. VIII.—DISTRICT COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

1. This Report is presented monthly, by every District Committee, pursuant to the XVIIIth By-Law. It is generally contained on a half sheet of post paper; but if any information of peculiar interest require the addition, another half sheet may be appended.

2. The design of these Reports is, to give to the General Committee a full and correct view of the society throughout its various parts. The importance of this information, to those who are responsible in the eyes of the public for the regular discharge of the duties assigned to them, is sufficiently obvious; nor is it less evident that it can only be acquired by the division of labour. On this principle the whole system of the Bible Society proceeds:—the several minor districts of a Bible Association are confided to the care of their respective Sub-Committees, who report monthly to the Committee of their Association: the District Committee of the Auxiliary Society then present this condensed epitome to their General Committee: and, lastly, an abstract of the whole is furnished periodically to the Parent Institution. The neglect of a duty so important, and so easily fulfilled, as that of presenting a monthly report, should never be passed over without animadversion; since it is impossible for the Committee of an Auxiliary Society to present a faithful Report of their proceedings, unless they possess, collectively, an intimate knowledge of the state of their several districts.

3. It will be perceived that the heads No. 5 and 6, in the annexed form, are exclusively applicable to those districts in which associations are established, and may be omitted where Branch Societies only are formed. The last member of the 6th head is only applicable where the Loan-fund is adopted.—*See Chap.* VIII. *Section* II.

The interesting fact recorded in the Specimen, is extracted from the Fourth Annual Report of the Bible Association of *Caversham*, a village in Oxfordshire.

SPECIMEN.

N°. 12. ——— AUXILIARY BIBLE SOCIETY.

Monthly Report of the 7th District Committee,

Presented *8th* of *October*, 1820.

Messrs. *W. Jones, Thomas Smith, H. Thomson, and W. Clarke* attended the last Committee of the *Bible Association* in this district; relative to which we have to report:—

1. Number of members present was 28.—Total number of Committee, 36.
2. Reports were presented from *all the* districts.—Total number of districts, 20.
3. The amount paid in by the District Committees was ..... £.34.2.9
4. Amount voted to Auxiliary Society, on Purchase Account 14.2.9
   Moiety Account..... - - -
   for General Object 20.0.0
5. Total number of free subscribers, 612.—For Bibles and Testaments, 186.
6. Total number of Bibles and Testaments distributed, 2136.—Number of Bibles and Testaments out on loan, 38.

☞ *The Asso-*

Specimen of Report of District Committee.—Committee Notice.

☞ *The Association is in a very flourishing state; nearly every family found destitute has been supplied with the holy scriptures; and many evidences of the good effects attending their circulation were reported. From these, we select the following:—"In the 13th district, a poor woman, the wife of an unsteady and immoral character, had subscribed for and obtained a Bible. In their recent visits to her humble abode, the collectors have been delighted to find, that the perusal of the sacred volume has, under the Divine blessing, produced a complete alteration in the habits, temper, and disposition of this man. 'I never knew him take to any book as he has to that,' said his grateful wife; 'he reads it every morning and night, and is become like a new man. All the neighbours can tell you that he is like another person; besides, he is now so kind to me and the children; indeed we are much happier.' This man is now strictly observant of his religious duties; attends his parish church punctually; and never goes to the public house. He regularly takes his Bible every Sunday evening a considerable distance, to read to his aged mother."*

We have received this month the following Donations and Subscriptions for the Auxiliary Society; viz.—

NAME.	RESIDENCE.	Old Subscrip.	New Donat.	New Subscr.
		£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Andrew Black . .	*No. 8, Broad Street* .	1 . 1 . 0	...	...
Mrs. Hunter . . .	*Rutland Place*	...	10.10 . 0	1 . 1 . 0
Henry Brown . .	*Summer Hill*	...	...	2 . 2 . 0

W. Jones, Secretary,
Thomas Smith,
William Clarke,
} Members of the District Committee.

*** It is particularly requested, that the ACTUAL STATE of the Branch Society, or Association, may be fully described every month.

NO. IX.—COMMITTEE NOTICE.

1. As the regular time and place of meeting are specified in the Ist By-Law, they may be included with the Secretary's name in the printed form, so as to render it necessary to insert the date only. Whatever tends to save the valuable time of the secretaries is worthy of attention.

2. When it is necessary to call an extraordinary meeting of the Committee, which should never be done if it can be avoided without injury to the cause, the pen may be drawn through the words

"the next," and "A Special" be substituted in their stead. The object of such meeting should be specified, pursuant to the XVth By-Law, under the Secretary's name.

It may not be altogether unnecessary to observe, that, at all Special Meetings, the Chairman should confine the attention of the Committee exclusively to the object for which it has been assembled.

SPECIMEN.

——— Auxiliary Bible Society.

Sir,

The next Meeting of the Committee will be held, at the Council Chamber in the Guildhall, on Monday next, the 16th instant, at Six o'clock PRECISELY.

—— *9th Nov.* 1820. Wm. Brown, Minute Secretary.

NO. X.—COLLECTOR'S RECEIPT.

1. The Cash Secretary furnishes the Collector annually with a book of Receipts, successively numbered both in the Receipt and corresponding Check. The Collector fills up the particulars in the checks, which he returns, with any receipts not used, to the Cash Secretary; by whom those receipts are handed to the Committees of the Districts within which the respective subscribers reside, pursuant to the XXIId By-Law.

SPECIMEN.

No. 161.
24th October, 1820.

Received of
John Martin, Esq.
£. 2 . 2 . 0
Annual Subscription
due at *Michaelmas.*

No. 161.

—— Auxiliary Bible Society.

Received, this *24th* of *October* 1820, of *John Martin, Esq.*, the sum of *Two Guineas;* being *his* Annual Subscription, ending *29th September*, 1820.

£.2 . 2 . 0

W. Richardson,
Collector.

2. It would save considerable trouble, if every Auxiliary Society endeavoured to specify one particular day on which all subscriptions should be considered as due, and gave notice to that effect in the Annual Report.

It will be perceived, by the specimens, that all the books and papers are so constructed, as to give as little trouble to the Officers and Committee as is consistent with regularity and accuracy in the accounts.

The advantage of printed forms is obvious, not only as they tend to facilitate the business and diminish the risk of error, but as they are more carefully preserved than loose memoranda. The expense attending these forms does not exceed that of good writing paper.

This appears to be the most suitable place to introduce the *Order of Proceedings* at the Annual Meetings of Auxiliary Bible Societies, and such observations connected with the subject as experience has suggested, in addition to the remarks already submitted in the 8th division of Section XIV. Chapter I.

1. "As a general principle," says a judicious writer,* "it will be allowed that an Anniversary Meeting of a charitable society, to inspect the accounts and to choose officers for the ensuing year, &c. is absolutely requisite, in order to prevent abuses, and to satisfy the subscribers of the due appropriation of their bounty. I doubt, however, whether the members of our charitable societies could ever be brought together, merely to hear a report and attest proceedings which they can afterwards read over in print."

An interest must be excited and maintained; but this should be effected in a manner consistent with Christian simplicity; and it is highly gratifying to perceive, that a desire to render our festivals of benevolence all that they ought to be, is increasingly manifested both by the speakers and the members at large.

"The spirit displayed," observes the same writer, "is sober, yet cheerful—animated, yet rational—grateful for the past, and hopeful for the future—in a word, as far as earth may approach to heaven, a spirit imitative of those celestial beings whose matin song, on the day of the Nativity, was '*Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good-will to men.*'"

The collateral benefits which result from these meetings are numerous and important:—

"The mind becomes stimulated to new and more healthy action in the cause of God and man; the social and benevolent feelings are excited; the importance of Eternal things becomes more fixed upon the heart; a spirit of prayer is cherished and increased; and from hearing what is our

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* See an admirable paper, entitled, "Beneficial effects of Meetings of Charitable Societies," in that excellent periodical work, "The Christian Observer" for July 1818, and a judicious letter signed S.N. in the same publication for April 1820.

duty at a time when the mind is particularly affected and impressed, a more permanent and active desire is often excited for its performance. It is almost impossible for an individual to plead the cause of this society, without feeling himself in some measure excited to be and to do what he describes; and it cannot be doubted that many holy resolutions have been formed on these occasions, which may have materially affected the future life. If there were no other advantage connected with the system, it would be an important one, that the members, and especially the committee of a society, are animated to begin another year with diligence and hope. Few men can labour long and zealously in complete retirement and shade; the stimulus of social feeling is often necessary to animate the heart, and recruit the exhausted powers. Subscribers, also, soon become uninterested, and gradually drop off, without this occasional excitement: so that, as long as the excitement does not exceed the bounds of sobriety, and remains duly regulated by piety and discretion, it is rather to be encouraged than repressed."

2. But it is worthy of serious consideration, whether these and the other advantages derived from our public meetings may not be strengthened and extended, rather than impaired, by a little alteration in the mode of conducting them;—whether, instead of the customary votes of thanks, the resolutions may not be so framed, as to recognise principles and practice rather than men, and express the opinion of the meeting upon the past prosperity and opening prospects of the society whose objects it is convened to promote. It is respectfully submitted, that, by the adoption of a plan somewhat similar to the following, "the addresses would be more especially confined to the main subject of the operations and efficiency of the society; and the praise of all the good effected would be more readily and cheerfully and entirely ascribed to Him alone, 'from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed.' Every species of adulation, on occasions like these, is foreign to the production of that Christian humility by which we ought at all times to be actuated, and at variance with the genius and spirit of the Gospel of Christ."

3. There is another branch of the subject which cannot with propriety be entirely overlooked, although it is difficult to recommend any general rule, where local circumstances and individual feeling must define the line of prudence. The time occupied by the General Meetings of Bible Societies is, in general, profitably spent; but it may be extended beyond the period which a right judgment and correct taste would prescribe. It may admit of a doubt whether this period should in any case exceed *four* hours; and, perhaps, if the duration of those of Auxiliary Societies and Associations were limited to *three*, the beneficial effects

would be increased. It is evident that, in any arrangement of this kind, much will depend on the respective speakers:—the length of an address, however, is usually estimated by its interest, rather than the time occupied in its delivery; but it should never be forgotten, that there is a courtesy due to the audience, as well as to those who are invited to take part in the proceedings.

4. ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

RECOMMENDED FOR ADOPTION

AT THE ANNUAL MEETINGS OF AUXILIARY BIBLE SOCIETIES.

The President, or one of the Vice-Presidents, having been called to the Chair:

1. *The Chairman*.....	will open the business of the meeting, and conclude by requesting one of the secretaries to read the Report of the Committee.
2. *A. B.*	will read the Report, including the Treasurer's account as audited.
3. *C. D.*	will move the Resolution No. 1— "That the Report now read be received, adopted, and printed under the direction of the Committee."
4. *E. F.*	will second the Motion No. 1.
5. *G. H.*	The Chairman having put the question, will move the Resolution No 2— "That this meeting avails itself of the renewed opportunity now afforded. to express its undiminished attachment to the object and design of the British and Foreign Bible Society; and desires to congratulate the Committee of that Institution on the success of their benevolent exertions at home and abroad."
6. *I. K.*.....	will second the Motion No. 2.
7. *L. M.*	The Chairman having put the question, will move the Resolution No. 3— "That this meeting congratulates the Committees of the several Branch Societies and Associations connected with this Institution, on the progress already made towards supplying the destitute in their respective districts with the holy scriptures, and on the assistance afforded to the Parent Society in extending the same invaluable blessing throughout the world."

Branch Societies generally less productive than Auxiliaries.

8. *N. O.*	will second the Motion No. 3.
9. *P. Q.*	The Chairman having put the question, will move the Resolution No. 4— "That this meeting participates in the satisfaction which the success of this society, during the past year, must afford to the President, the Vice-Presidents, Officers, and Committee; and that the following gentlemen be the officers and committee for the ensuing year, with power to fill up any vacancies in their number; viz." [*Here insert the names of the Treasurer, Secretaries, and members of the Committee.*]
10. *R. S.*	will second the Motion No. 4.
11. *T. V.*	The Chairman having put the question, will move the Resolution No. 5— "That this meeting cordially acknowledges the kindness of those gentlemen who have attended on behalf of the Parent Society, and who have thus afforded a fresh illustration of that spirit of harmony and love which unites the various denominations of the Christian Church in this work of mercy."
12. *W. X.*	will second the Motion No. 5.
13. *Y. Z.*	The Chairman having put the question, will move the Resolution No. 6— "That this meeting aknowledges, with grateful respect, the obliging manner in which the Chairman has conducted the business of the day."
14. *B. A.*	will second the Motion No. 6.
15. *The Chairman*	The *Mover* having put the question, will acknowledge the Resolution, refer to the plates for receiving contributions, and adjourn the Meeting to the day specified in the General Rules.

SECTION VI.

BRANCH BIBLE SOCIETIES—CONDUCTED BY GENTLEMEN.

1. It has been already intimated, that Auxiliary Societies are, in general, more productive and efficient than Branch Societies of the same extent; and where the population is of sufficient magnitude, and suitable patronage and officers, with an effective Committee, can be obtained, the constitution of the former may be recommended as preferable.

But there are many situations wherein it may be desirable

to establish a "Branch Society," but where it may be impracticable or inexpedient to form an "Auxiliary;" and the subject will now be considered in reference to such cases.

2. It will be recollected, that the only difference between the two establishments is this:—that an Auxiliary Society remits its funds to, and draws its supplies of Bibles and Testaments from, the Parent Institution; while a Branch Society maintains a similar connexion with the Auxiliary Society. The extent of privilege, collectively and individually, is precisely the same in both cases.

Where a Bible Association is established within the district embraced by a Branch Society, the latter possesses the same unlimited right of purchasing Bibles and Testaments at cost prices, with the funds and on account of such Association, from the depository of the Auxiliary Society, as the latter enjoys from the Parent Institution on behalf of an Association connected directly with it.

3. The following are the RULES and REGULATIONS recommended by the British and Foreign Bible Society for adoption by Branch Societies; the parenthetical additions being suggested, to render the plan more explicit:—

1. That the object and constitution of the British and Foreign Bible Society have the cordial approbation of this meeting.

2. That a society be (*now*) formed, to be called "The Branch Bible Society of ———," for the purpose of co-operating with the British and Foreign Bible Society (*through the medium of the —— Auxiliary Society*), in promoting the distribution of the holy scriptures both at home and abroad.

3. That, conformably to the principles of the British and Foreign Bible Society, the Bibles and Testaments to be circulated by this society shall be without note or comment, and those in the languages of the United Kingdom of the authorised version only.

4. That all persons subscribing one guinea *per annum*, or upwards, or ten guineas, or upwards, at one time, shall be members of this society.

5. That the business of this society shall be conducted by a President, Vice-Presidents, a Treasurer, Secretaries, and a Committee consisting of ——— other members, half of whom shall be members of the Established Church; and that ——— members of this Committee constitute a quorum.

6. That every clergyman, or other minister, who is a member of the Society, shall be entitled to attend and vote at the meeetings of the Committee.

7. That the Committee shall meet once every month, or oftener, on some day to be fixed by themselves.

8. That the Committee divide this neighbourhood into districts, and appoint two or more of their members for each district, who may associate with themselves any subscribers for the purpose of soliciting subscriptions and donations from the inhabitants thereof; and that they establish proper agents and correspondents in different parts within the limits of this Branch Society.

Rules and Regulations recommended for adoption by Branch Societies.

9. That the whole of the subscriptions and donations received by this Society shall be remitted half-yearly, after deducting incidental expenses, to the Auxiliary Bible Society of ———, on condition of such society granting to this the same privileges which the Parent Institution grants, in such case, to its Auxiliary Societies.

10. That the Committee shall make it their business to inquire (*either personally or by means of Bible Associations*) what families or individuals residing within the several districts are in want of Bibles or Testaments, and unable to procure them; and that it shall be the duty of the Committee to furnish them therewith at prime cost, reduced prices, or gratis, according to their circumstances.

11. That such persons as may not find it convenient to become members of this society shall, upon forming themselves into Bible Associations (*and sending a copy of their Rules to the Committee*), be entitled to purchase, at the depository of this society, under the direction of the Committee, copies of the Scriptures at prime cost, for gratuitous distribution, or sale at prime cost or reduced prices, among their poorer neighbours.

12. That all clergymen, and other ministers, within the sphere of this society, making collections in their respective congregations in behalf of the institution, shall be entitled, on remitting such collections to the Treasurer of this society, to receive Bibles and Testaments to an amount not exceeding one-half of the said respective collections, estimated at prime cost, as shall be found to be needed by the poor in the vicinity; such return of Bibles and Testaments to be claimed within one year from the remittance of the collection. It is recommended, in all practicable cases, to supply the poor by sale, rather than by gift.

13. That a General Meeting of the subscribers be held at ——— the ——— in each year, when the accounts shall be presented, the proceedings of the past year stated, a new Committee formed, and a Report agreed upon, to be printed under the direction of the Committee, and circulated among the Members.

14. That, in the formation of the New Committee, the (*President, Vice-Presidents*) Treasurer, Secretaries, and such three-fourths of the other Members as have most frequently attended the Committee, shall be re-eligible for the ensuing year.

15. That ——— be President, ——— Vice Presidents, ——— Treasurer, ——— Secretaries, and ——— Members of the Committee for the year ensuing.

16. That annual subscriptions and donations be now entered into, and that they be also received by the treasurer, (*secretaries,*) and the several bankers of this town and neighbourhood.

17. That these Resolutions be published in such manner as the Committee may direct; and a copy of them, signed by the chairman, transmitted to the President of the Auxiliary Bible Society at ———.

18. That the Committee meet the ——— instant, at ——— o'clock, and prepare, print, and circulate an address on the objects and views of this society.

3. The "Observations" on the Rules of an Auxiliary Society (*see Section* II. *of this Chapter*) are equally applicable to those of a Branch Society; and the few verbal alterations which are necessary, in order to adapt the By-Laws (*see Section* III.) to the design of the latter, will readily suggest themselves to the reader.

4. When one or more individuals feel disposed to establish a Branch Bible Society in the town or district where they reside, they should proceed towards the attainment of their object in the manner described in Section IV.; only deriving the requisite assistance from the Committee of the Auxiliary Society with which they propose to connect themselves, instead of applying to that of the Parent Institution. But as it more frequently happens that the impulse is given by the District Committee of the Auxiliary Society, in fulfilling the duties prescribed by the XVIth By-Law, it may be proper to observe, that much will depend on the prudence and wisdom of their preliminary proceedings. Those individuals to whom the design is first communicated should be persons of local respectability and influence, and the object and plan of the society be thoroughly explained to them, before any measures are adopted for calling a General Meeting and establishing the society. Important as is the design, and replete with blessings wherever it has been steadily pursued, it should never be *forced* on the public attention, in opposition to the wishes of those who are most competent to judge of its expediency. Delay may sometimes be as much a duty as despatch, and may be rendered more profitable by the prudent circulation of full and accurate information on the subject.

5. The mode of organizing a Branch Society,—the duties of the officers and Committee,—the mode of conducting the Committee Meetings,—and the forms of the books and papers,—are so similar to those already described, that it is only necessary to refer the reader to the preceding Sections. Every suggestion which may be found useful to the officers or Committee of an Auxiliary Society, is equally applicable to those of a Branch Society, who should cultivate, by every means in their power, that mutual confidence and good understanding which has hitherto characterized the various parts of the system, and facilitated all their proceedings.

6. Where the seat of a Branch Society is at a considerable distance from that of the Auxiliary with which it is connected, it may be found advantageous to the former to avail itself of the following regulation, adopted in the spring of 1818 by the Parent Society:—

"The Committee of the British and Foreign Bible Society, desirous of rendering the utmost practicable facility in furnishing Bibles and Testaments to every department connected with their Auxiliary Societies, respectfully inform the several Committees, that, where it may be found more con-

venient to have their Branch Societies supplied direct from the depository in London, they may authorise their Branches to remit their moneys and orders to the house of the Parent Institution, when they will be regularly entered to the account of the Auxiliary Society, as though transmitted through the medium of its officers."

It should be distinctly understood, that this arrangement is dependent, in all cases, on the mutual consent of the respective Auxiliary and Branch Societies, between which the most perfect unanimity ought always to subsist. And it will be evident, that a statement of all remittances made, and the particulars of all Bibles and Testaments received, should be immediately furnished by the Secretaries of the Branch Societies to those of the Auxiliaries, in order that the accounts of the latter may agree with the books of the Parent Institution.

SECTION VII.

GENERAL REMARKS.

1. It has been truly remarked, that "in no respect is the British and Foreign Bible Society more peculiarly distinguished, than by the facility with which it has been found to adapt itself to the circumstances of mankind, and the capability which it has thereby shewn of converting to its use whatever could forward its purposes, or conduce to its improvement." *—And with equal justice it may be added, that, in the application of those diversified means, the fundamental principles of the institution have been preserved inviolate; and the system, throughout its various parts, has been founded and progressively matured with a strict observance of the singleness and purity of that object which it is designed to promote.

2. Nor will it be less evident to the reader, that the whole organization of an Auxiliary, or Branch Society, proceeds according to a clear and intelligible line, which distinctly recognises the *two-fold* object of their establishment:—*first*, the adoption of measures for the supply of their local deficiencies; and, *secondly*, a co-operation with the Parent Society in promoting the universal dissemination of the holy scriptures. That the system detailed in the preceding sections of this chapter is calculated to effect both, has been sufficiently proved in the comparative statement introduced in the third

* Owen's History, Vol. III. p. 354.

division of Section XIV. Chapter I.; and it only remains to consider its practical operation in a few points, which could not, with propriety, be introduced under any of the preceding heads.

3. It will readily be acknowledged, that many Auxiliary and a still greater number of Branch Societies in the United Kingdom are susceptible of a higher degree of organization than they have hitherto received. Most of them were established before the system had reached its present state of perfection; and the incessant claims on the time and attention of the officers of the Parent Institution have not left them at liberty to adopt such measures, in reference to this important subject, as the nature of the case demands. While this consideration affords an additional argument for that increase of agents which has been recommended in a former part of this work, it furnishes a powerful motive to those who occupy this responsible station, to investigate the actual state of the societies they visit, and to attend, not their General Meetings only, but their *Committees*, where alone this knowledge can be acquired, and the system be practically adopted. If this plan were steadily and perseveringly pursued throughout the empire, the results would be incalculably beneficial, not only in promoting the primary object of local societies, but in extending the means and increasing the usefulness of the Parent Institution.

4. But the organization of Auxiliary and Branch Societies, however important, can never supersede the necessity of a regular, or at least occasional attendance of their Annual Meetings by the Officers of the Parent Society. The advantages derived from their assistance on these occasions are known and appreciated thoughout the nation, and cannot be better described than in the following extract from the Tenth Report:—

"For much of that vigor which has characterized the Auxiliary Societies in several parts of the country, your Committee are authorised by those Auxiliary Societies to say, that they are indebted to the seasonable visits and zealous services of your secretaries, whose exertions during the past year, both in discharging their official and these extraordinary duties, have given them a renewed claim to the respect and gratitude of the society."

5. As it is through the medium of Bible Associations that the local wants of the district can be most accurately known and most efficiently supplied, the Committee of an Auxiliary, or Branch Society, should direct their early attention to the establishment and proper organization of those highly

important institutions. The mode of proceeding will be fully explained and illustrated in the succeeding Chapters; but it may not be unnecessary to observe, that the Committee, and especially the secretaries, of an Auxiliary or Branch Society, should be well acquainted with the whole system, and exercise a constant and vigilant superintendence of its practical details. At the same time, it should always be remembered, that, as no authority is assumed by the Parent Society over the internal regulations of its affiliated institutions, so none is possessed by the latter over the proceedings of their connected Associations, while they adhere with scrupulous fidelity to those principles which constitute the bond of union. Every separate establishment, under whatever designation, is an independent society, and governed by its own rules and regulations; but there is a law of kindness and mutual confidence, which, as it has hitherto been preserved unbroken, will, it is confidently hoped, always characterize the members of the Bible Society.

6. The Southwark Auxiliary Bible Society, to which allusion has been already made, has committed the supply of the local wants exclusively to the Associations connected with it, except in reference to Prisons and Hospitals: and the Auxiliary Society of the County of Kent, following this example, judiciously observe, in their Annual Report for 1815:—

"At the request of the Committee of the Maidstone Bible Association, *your* Committee no longer distribute Bibles in this town, but have gladly transferred that work to the Association; fully persuaded, that, to enable the poor to supply their own wants through the medium of Bible Associations, is to impart to them a double benefit—is to produce in their own minds a more just valuation of the holy scriptures; and also to excite a sympathy of no ordinary kind with the spiritual poverty of those of their fellow-creatures who have hitherto had no access to the word and promises of GOD."

7. The attainment of this primary object, and the astonishing increase of the funds of Auxiliary and Branch Societies by means of Bible Associations, constitute a sufficient reason for recommending their general encouragement: but this, it has been well observed,—

"is not the only benefit likely to accrue from the general prevalence of such institutions. Their indirect effects, upon the character and circumstances of that class of the community which they chiefly embrace, are of a nature highly interesting to the patriot, the philanthropist, and the Christian. To every reflecting mind it must be apparent, that to interest the great body of the community about matters of this nature, must tend to elevate their character, by engaging their attention to noble and worthy objects; to foster the spirit of honourable independence, by placing them in the station, not

of *recipients*, but of *donors;* to apply an impulse to their benevolent affections, by making them feel in their experience the truth of that beautiful saying, '*It is more blessed to give than to receive;*' to stimulate, by means of the same experience, to honest industry, and promote the habits of economy and sobriety; to raise their own estimation of the Bible, by leading them to view it as a valuable gift to others; and by drawing their attention more closely to that blessed book, to advance individual and social happiness, by teaching them to '*do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with* GOD.'" *

8. When Ladies' Bible Associations are formed in a district, it will devolve on the Officers and Committee of the Auxiliary or Branch Society to conduct their public proceedings, and to afford them every requisite facility and encouragement. If these associations be connected with the Auxiliary Society through the medium of a Ladies' Branch, the secretaries should be officially appointed a District Committee to attend and assist the latter at their regular Committee Meetings. In this, as in every other part of the proceedings, nothing ought to be left subject to uncertainty, but a specific and responsible appointment be made for every department.

9. It may probably be going too far to say, that in no case whatever should a Branch Society, or an Association, be supplied with Bibles and Testaments beyond the amount of the balance at their credit in the Leger; but as every institution ought at least to support itself, if it cannot contribute to the general object, no deviation from this principle should be allowed without the most minute investigation of the circumstances. The following fact will afford a gratifying illustration of this remark.—In a populous district in the vicinity of the metropolis, the Committee of a Bible Association had adopted a scale of prices, at which Bibles and Testaments might be sold to the poor considerably under their cost: the number of Bible Subscribers rapidly increased; and it soon became evident, that the amount of free contributions was insufficient to counterbalance the loss, and that the funds were consequently inadequate to the supply of the subscribers. An appeal was in consequence made to the Committee of the Auxiliary Society, and a grant of Bibles and Testaments solicited. This application was calmly and fully considered, and, on a review of all the circumstances of the case, unanimously rejected: but the Committee of the Association were earnestly recommended to institute a general canvas of

* Third Annual Report of the Glasgow Auxiliary Bible Society.

their several districts for free contributions; and a few members of the Auxiliary Committee, offered their services, to assist them herein, if necessary. This recommendation was promptly adopted; and the measure carried into effect with such success, that, at the next meeting of the Auxiliary Committee, the thanks of the Association were officially communicated, for that refusal which had given a new impulse to their proceedings. The scale of prices was subsequently revised, in reference to all future subscribers; and, before the close of the following year, this Association had contributed nearly two hundred pounds to the general object of the Parent Society.

10. The privilege of making *gratuitous* grants of Bibles and Testaments should be vested exclusively in the Committee of an Auxiliary or Branch Society. This plan is now adopted in every well-organised institution, and materially diminishes the trouble and responsibility of the Associations on whose recommendation *alone* any grant should be made. On receiving an application of this nature, it is immediately referred to the District Committee, within whose allotted boundaries the party resides, for investigation; and on their Report is finally complied with or rejected. It may not be improper to observe, that the general adoption of the Loan-Fund plan, which will be fully detailed in Chapter VIII., has in many places entirely superseded gratuitous grants.

11. Among the most important duties which devolve on the Committee of an Auxiliary or Branch Society, is that of circulating information relative to the proceedings of the Parent Institution, and the progress of the cause both at home and abroad. The Annual Reports, Monthly Extracts of Correspondence, and other publications of a similar description, should be transmitted promptly and regularly to the Committees of the several Associations; and nothing be omitted which can assist and encourage them in the discharge of their interesting duties. Nor is this recommendation inconsistent with that strict attention to economy, in every department, which should characterize a Bible Society; as the expense thus incurred repays itself, in a tenfold degree, by the additional interest excited, and the gratification afforded to subscribers. That husbandman is the most likely to persevere in his labours, who beholds the increase of the seed which he has scattered;—and never did a field present a more rich and abundant harvest than that we are now contemplating.

Economy promoted by keeping a stock of Account Books, &c.

The extent to which this information is supplied, will of course depend on circumstances; but, as a general rule, it may be prudent to furnish an association with two or three copies of the Annual Report of the Parent Society, to circulate among the members of the Committee, and subsequently to be lent to the free contributors. Every collector should be regularly presented with a copy of the Monthly Extracts, and a requisite supply for the subscribers in the district. This subject will be more fully considered in Chapters III. and VII., in reference to the internal arrangements of Bible Associations.

12. It will be found conducive to the economy which has been recommended, for Auxiliary and Branch Societies to keep a stock of such account-books, papers, &c. as are necessary for organizing and conducting Bible Associations, and enabling them without delay to proceed to the discharge of their duties. Another advantage derived from this regulation, is the maintenance of one uniform mode of proceeding throughout the whole system, and the consequent facility of its extension where it is deemed expedient. Of the importance of this last consideration, the Committee of the Parent Society thus express their opinion, in the *Fourteenth* Report:—

"Your Committee take this opportunity of suggesting, as the result of their experience, that, in order to render these institutions prosperous and effective, it will be necessary that their Committee Meetings be as frequent as local circumstances will admit; and that their operations be conducted throughout with that regard to system which is essential to the accomplishment of every undertaking."

13. It has already been observed, in reference to the XXIVth By-Law, that a number of the Annual Reports of an Auxiliary Society should be promptly transmitted to the Parent Institution. But the communication of any important intelligence is not to be limited to this medium:—any interesting information relative to the progress of the Society, derived from the Reports of the District Committees, Branches, or Associations, should be transmitted from time to time to the Committee of the Parent Institution, whose duty it is to select, arrange, and circulate such intelligence, as may tend to promote the general cause. Any Auxiliary Society that expects to be furnished with intelligence of the foreign and domestic operations, should not be remiss in contributing its quota to the general stock.

14. The Annual Report of an Auxiliary or Branch Society should contain a clear and faithful exposition of its proceedings and results throughout the whole of its allotted district. It has been already observed, that in places remote from the metropolis, a condensed view of the recent operations of the Parent Society may be introduced with advantage: but it should always be recollected, that the domestic details constitute the primary and paramount subject of a Local Report.

15. The benefits derived to the British and Foreign Bible Society from the practical application of the system detailed in the preceding pages, cannot be better described than in the following extract from the Twelfth Report:—

"The Auxiliary Societies have justified their claim to that title, in the most extensive interpretation; as, independently of their liberality to the Parent Institution, and their local efficiency in distributing the Scriptures, they have contributed, by their influence and example, to excite an attention to the establishment of other Auxiliaries, of Branch Societies, and of Bible Associations—the whose exhibiting a system of benevolent co-operation for the best end, and through the purest means. By these gradations the lowest orders of society become connected with the highest in one great work of Christian charity; and the bounty of all, accumulated into one stream, is again poured forth, to enrich the spots from which it flowed, or to fertilize the barren tracts of distant regions."

But important as are these advantages, there are other grounds on which the Auxiliary System may confidently rest its appeal to the countenance of the wise and good, while they furnish matter at this eventful crisis for deep and solemn reflection. These have been described by the Committee, at the close of their Sixteenth Report, in a manner which justifies the selection of the passage as an appropriate conclusion of this Chapter:—

"Nor will it fail to have struck the members of the Society, while attending to the transactions of the year, how greatly the Institution has strengthened its claims to the veneration and support of the Christian public, by the increased evidence of its usefulness in cherishing the growth of vital religion, and thereby promoting the happiness of individuals and the best interests of the community. The craving desires which have been expressed for the word of GOD, and the thankfulness which has been uttered when this desire has been gratified, have been uniformly associated with those principles and feelings on which are founded loyalty and contentment, subjection to Principalities and Powers for con-

science sake, and a quiet and peaceable demeanour in all godliness and honesty. Nor would your Committee stand excused to themselves, if they were to omit to remark how strikingly the truth of this observation has been illustrated in the conduct of the Society's Domestic Auxiliaries, during the trial through which they have recently passed. While Infidelity has been lifting up her audacious front, and uttering her many blasphemies; while her adherents have been labouring with infatuated zeal to detach the labouring classes of the community from their allegiance to the Bible, the Societies and Associations in connexion with your Institution remained steady to their engagements; and bore, at their anniversaries, an unshrinking testimony to the truth and excellence of that WORD which no calumnies will be able to depreciate, and no violence to destroy."

CHAP. III.

BIBLE ASSOCIATIONS

(CONDUCTED BY GENTLEMEN).

"AS POOR, YET MAKING MANY RICH."—2 *COR.* VI. 10.

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS.

THE system of Bible Associations has now been in operation for more than eight years: the results are before the public; and the general opinion of their importance is manifested by the establishment of more than *one thousand* of these interesting institutions, and the progressive increase of their number. We are justified, therefore, in considering their effects with that attention which a national object demands: and as these effects are naturally connected with the developement of the system, a few general remarks, on the tendency of Bible Associations, will not be considered out of place in a work of this nature. It is a prevalent, but most erroneous opinion, that the end of these associations is attained when the local wants of the poor are supplied; and that the efforts of benevolence and the visits of mercy may then cease, without injury to the cause, or an abatement of that interest which had been excited throughout the mass of the community. Such a sentiment, in the author's view of the subject, strikes at the vitality of the Bible Society, to which the permanency of Bible Associations appears to him to be as essential as that of any other portion of the Auxiliary System.

But the consequences of this impression appear yet more unfavourable in another point of view. In direct proportion to the knowledge of the labouring classes acquired by those in the superior ranks of society, and to the benevolent interest and prudent attention manifested towards them, will the frame of civil society be strengthened and maintained. The rich will feel for the poor, and the poor will be grateful and respectful to the rich. There are a thousand kind offices that each may render to the other, but of which both have been deprived by mutual ignorance and distrust. Is it not evident, that the cessation of those kind visits and inquiries which originated with the Bible Association, will induce a

belief that a merely temporary motive influenced them? And will not the interest felt by the affluent in the welfare and happiness of the poor gradually decay, if that which has nourished it be withheld? To render *real* assistance to the poor, by instructing them how to assist themselves, you must not only acquire but retain their confidence; and this can be done by steady perseverance alone. The various ranks of society may be compared to the inequalities of the earth—the streams gush forth from the hills, that they may fertilize the valleys: yet it is not the wintry mountain-torrent, rushing impetuously from its transient source, that gives verdure to the fields; but the brooks, whose fountains are perennial, and whose waters overflow at their appointed seasons. It has been asked by an able and eloquent writer,* in reference to this subject: "What, after all, is the best method of providing for the secular necessities of the poor? Is it by labouring to meet the necessity after it has occurred, or by labouring to establish a principle and a habit which would go far to prevent its existence?" To this important question the answer is obvious—"If you wish to extinguish poverty, combat with it in its first elements. If you confine your beneficence to the relief of actual poverty, you do nothing. Dry up, if possible, the spring of poverty; for every attempt to intercept the running stream has totally failed." That it is the tendency of Bible Associations, in connexion with other admirable institutions, to effect this great object, we have the most ample and unequivocal evidence. Education has laid the ground-work; but education is an evil rather than a good, if correct principles of action be not instilled and enforced. From the BIBLE alone can these be derived; and hence we have an increased motive to exertion. The poor, taught by the visits of the collectors how they may acquire a Bible at a sacrifice that is scarcely felt even by the most indigent, gladly embrace the opportunity. Gratified by the regular weekly calls of their superiors, they endeavour to render their humble abodes more cleanly and attractive:—the effort is noticed with approbation, and comparative comfort and order are enjoyed. The husband and the father no longer spends his evenings from his family;—he begins to taste the pleasures of home; and to consider whether his weekly earnings may not be more profitably expended than in sensual and degrading pursuits. The expected Bible is at length obtained,—the

* Dr. Chalmers, in his admirable pamphlet entitled "The influence of Bible Societies on the temporal necessities of the poor."

perusal of it confirms the *habits* recently acquired, and they gradually attain the force of *principles*. He finds he is able to lay by a portion of his weekly gains; and cheerfully devotes the first-fruits of his increase to that cause which he has found to be a blessing. The visits of the collectors are consequently continued regularly, their advice is solicited, and the SAVINGS' BANK is recommended as a secure depository for the newly-formed basis of future independence. Here is the natural progress of the system, not drawn by the pencil of imagination, but indited by truth. In numerous cases the poor have acknowledged, that, although they conceived at first it would be difficult to spare the requisite subscription, they were soon convinced of their error;—that in endeavouring to save one penny a week, they acquired habits of system and economy;—and that, by perseverance in those habits, they speedily found themselves placed in comparatively easy circumstances. To increase the comforts, harmonize the affections, and give a moral feeling to the character and pursuits of the poor, must afford pure and unmingled pleasure; but to accomplish this without inflicting the sense of obligation, and by their own agency alone, enhances the satisfaction, while it increases the effect.

SECTION I.

ORIGIN OF BIBLE ASSOCIATIONS.

1. He who would trace the History of the British and Foreign Bible Society should keep steadily in view the first principles of this remarkable institution. Uniting the affections and securing the co-operation of the members of all denominations of professing Christians, the energies and the abilities of all have been called into exercise; and many individuals, whose retired habits had long concealed them from the public eye, having been attracted by the importance and purity of the design, have here found a centre whence their benevolence might expand, while their various talents were directed to the attainment of the highest object of human pursuit—the glory of their CREATOR, and the happiness of man.

Among those individuals was RICHARD PHILLIPS, Esq., to whom allusion has already been made in the preceding chapter, and to whom the British and Foreign Bible Society is indebted for the regulations which have given order and efficiency to its Auxiliaries. But it is in reference to the particular subject on which we are now entering, that he possesses a peculiar claim to the gratitude of his country and of

mankind. Auxiliary Societies had succeeded in awakening an interest in the more affluent orders of the community, and in disseminating information relative to the object and design of the institution; but little had hitherto been effected towards the extension of this interest throughout the great mass of our population. Partial and unconnected efforts had, indeed, been made in some few places, by benevolent individuals; but nothing seems to have been contemplated, far less attempted, on a scale commensurate with the acknowledged importance of the object, or on a plan calculated to insure stability and permanence.

2. In the summer of 1811, Mr. Phillips had an opportunity of witnessing the mode generally adopted by the Auxiliary Societies then established, for circulating the Bibles and Testaments received from the Parent Institution, and was speedily convinced of its inexpediency. In pursuing the train of reflections attendant on this conviction, and in contemplating the destitute state of our own population, he perceived the insufficiency of the means thus provided for ascertaining the extent of the deficiency, and providing an adequate supply. To a mind constituted like his, the discovery of an evil is a sufficient motive to seek a remedy. He conceived it possible to *interest the poor themselves*; to create a desire for that sacred treasure which so many thousands of them had never possessed; and to liberate the funds of the Auxiliary Societies for the general object, while the home supply should be more effectually secured, in a manner calculated to enhance the value of the sacred volume.

To realise the prospect which had thus opened to his view, this FOUNDER of *Bible Associations* immediately prepared a Code of Rules for their government, and introduced a provision for their establishment in the regulations he had embodied for Auxiliary and Branch Societies. Those admirable measures constitute the ground-work of every subsequent proceeding, and the basis of that system which has already produced such astonishing effects in our own country, and promises, in its ultimate results, to be a blessing to the world. This Code of Rules was originally prepared in the autumn of 1811, and was unanimously approved, and recommended for general adoption, by the Committee of the Parent Institution in the spring of 1812. The very few alterations which the experience of nine years has suggested in these regulations, afford the best evidence of their adaptation to the end designed.

First Bible Associations formed at High Wycombe and Darlington.

3. The Bible Associations of HIGH WYCOMBE in Buckinghamshire, and of DARLINGTON in the county of Durham, appear to have been the first that were established on methodical principles.* But the introduction of the system in SOUTHWARK, and the invention and adoption of those minor details that gave facility to its application, led to results so far surpassing all previous calculations as to demand especial notice. The practical illustration of the system, as exhibited in this populous district, may be considered the primary cause of that extensive success which has attended its adoption throughout the empire. The force of example was here superadded to the lessons of benevolence and wisdom, and both combined became resistless.

4. About the close of the year 1811, the idea of forming an Auxiliary Bible Society in Southwark was first suggested. Hitherto, no establishment of this description had been contemplated in the metropolis; and it is a gratifying reflection, that the idea was originally communicated in the course of a casual conversation with Mr. Phillips. The only apparent difficulty arose from the proximity of the seat of the Parent Institution, and the consequent belief that the *necessity* for the proposed establishment, so far as regarded the home supply, had been superseded. To meet this objection, by ascertaining how far it was well-founded, it appeared desirable to investigate the fact by extensive personal inquiry. During the succeeding winter, the author visited more than two thousand families in this crowded portion of the capital; and, with respect to the immediate object of inquiry, the result was painfully corroborative of previous opinions—considerably more than one-half being found destitute of the holy scriptures. But it is in reference to another subject that this allusion is made. In the course of these visits, a high degree of satisfaction was experienced, in witnessing many instances of grateful sensibility and disinterested benevolence, even where it might have been supposed that provision for the daily wants of life must absorb every other consideration. We are too apt to complain of the selfishness of the labouring

* It should be stated, that this observation is made in reference to the rules devised by Mr. Phillips. The remarkable instances of the SHEFFIELD Juvenile Bible Society, established in the year 1804, without any knowledge of the existence of the British and Foreign Bible Society; and of the ABERDEEN Female Servants' Society; will be more distinctly considered in Chap. VII.

classes, and to exaggerate the effects of penury upon their hearts; but it does not always

"Freeze the genial current of the soul:"

and never can it be forgotten by the author, that it was in these visits he first conceived it *possible* to realise the most glowing visions of philanthropy;—to direct the rays of mercy on the obscure abodes of poverty; and, when they had illuminated the narrow walls, and cheered the awakened inmate, to reflect them back on distant and benighted lands. Not only was the greatest willingness manifested to subscribe for Bibles, and the most cordial gratitude expressed; but, in numerous instances, individuals who were destitute were pointed out by their poor neighbours, and money importunately offered to assist in their supply: and when the state of foreign and heathen countries was occasionally described, the glowing cheek and the moistened eye rarely failed to bear testimony to the interest excited, in behalf of millions of whom they had never previously heard. The General Meeting, convened for the establishment of the Southwark Society, was not calculated to remove or weaken these impressions. The almost prophetic language of the lamented HENRY THORNTON, Esq. in allusion to those "visits to the poor, which seem to connect them with their superiors, and to produce a feeling of mutual regard and general philanthropy," was followed by that masterly exposition of the tendency of Bible Associations, which has identified Professor DEALTRY* with the early history of these important institutions.

5. The district embraced by the Southwark Society comprises a population exceeding 150,000 souls. Scarcely had the Committee commenced their labours, when it became evident that the time and attention which could be devoted by thirty or forty individuals, engaged in the active duties of professional and commercial life, must be utterly inadequate to the due investigation of the state of the poor, so as to ascertain the extent of the deficiency and the best mode of supply. But the very limited degree of experience that established this fact had likewise confirmed another—by proving the readiness of the labouring classes to assist, not only in supplying themselves, but others, were a proper medium

* Now Rector of Clapham. The address alluded to, extended and rendered more general, now forms that admirable paper, entitled, "The Advantages," which constitutes No. VII. of the Appendix.

Improvement of the system by the introduction of By-Laws.

provided through which this disposition might be gratified. The subject of Bible Associations was thus brought more distinctly under the consideration of the Committee; and the By-Laws contained in the preceding chapter were framed with a view to this precise object. The ground having been marked out for Twelve Associations, and the Committee of the Auxiliary Society divided into the same number of District Committees, attached respectively to each, and designated accordingly, a supply of the various minor publications, that have so essentially contributed to the success of the institution, was placed in their hands for circulation; and they were particularly instructed to report, monthly, the progress of the measures adopted.

6. In this stage of the business, it became necessary to examine with more scrupulous attention the Rules recommended for adoption by the Parent Society; and some requisite alterations were made in them. But the consideration of this subject involved another. Admirably suited to the object as were these Regulations, it was evident that something more was necessary, in order to direct their practical application; and it devolved on the author, in his official capacity, to prepare a code of By-Laws, which was subsequently adopted by the Committees of the respective Associations.—The only merit these regulations possess, is derived from the rules whereon they are founded, and the tendency of which they are designed to explain; but without them it was found impossible to conduct the executive details in an orderly and systematic manner. These Rules and By-Laws, with Specimens of the various Books and Papers required by Bible Associations, will be found in the following pages; and such observations are introduced as appeared necessary, in order to give a clear and connected view of the subject.

7. In the application of those means to the local circumstances of Southwark, peculiar delicacy was requisite. It was the first attempt on a scale of magnitude: the machinery had hitherto been untried; and its failure in this instance would, in all probability, have long deterred the advocates of the cause from making an attempt to introduce it elsewhere. But, on the other hand, the value of the object justified the risk. The Auxiliary Society had already interested such of the more affluent inhabitants as were willing to support this noble cause; but something was yet required, which should call forth the dormant energies, and excite the affections of the great body of the population—of those, whose example

would prove resistlests, if exhibited on the side of virtue; and who, while they receive the greater share of benefit themselves, give, by their individual and combined exertions, the moral tone and feeling to the country.

8. That the destitute families in Southwark *could* have been supplied with the holy scriptures without the adoption of those means, is not denied, though it may admit of a doubt;—but it is unquestionable, that many years must have previously elapsed, and a degree of zeal and perseverance beyond what we generally witness must have characterized the agents employed. This however is not the question;—a *gratuitous* distribution could not satisfy the minds of those who wished to counteract the degrading influence of Pauperism, to check the progress of Infidelity, and to extend the empire of Religion and Morality. They beheld in this unfolding system a moral engine of incalculable power, but which could be employed *only* on the side of Virtue. The spring that governed its movements was the BIBLE;—the power that directed their application was Christian Charity. To bring the rich in contact with the poor, in a manner peculiarly calculated to increase the knowledge and promote the interests of both;—to direct the footsteps of Benevolence into those obscure lanes and alleys whose inhabitants had rarely been beheld by their superiors, except in the casual light that Charity shed upon their miseries, or the stronger glare that Justice flashed upon their crimes;—to raise the sinking spirit of honest independence from the degradation of abject and sensual addiction, and elevate the tone of moral feeling by giving it a just and Christian direction—*these* were the considerations that incited hope; *these* were the prospects that appeared worthy of steady and persevering pursuit. Here, if HE vouchsafed His blessing who can alone command success, that success would be the best reward; and if the effort failed, the consciousness of an upright motive would at least acquit.

9. Nor were these the only incitements. The "*signs of the times*" appeared, as now, portentous—"*Men's hearts failing them for fear;*" and something was required that should erect a secure mound against the tide of infidelity and the waves of licentiousness. Of what materials *could* that safeguard be composed, if the BIBLE proved insufficient to stem the torrent? What voice *could* lead the poor man to the path of peace and safety, if that of sympathy and kindness from the

lips of his superiors proved ineffectual? What footsteps would be welcome at his humble door, if those of Mercy and Gentleness and Benevolence were repelled?

10. Influenced by these considerations, and animated by these hopes, the Committee of the Southwark Society entered on their new and arduous duties. In the pursuit of their object, many impediments were presented; but fully appreciating its importance, and confident of ultimate success, they steadily persevered, and at their Second Annual Meeting had the unspeakable satisfaction to report the full completion of their dearest wishes: they beheld the whole of their extensive district divided and enclosed; the boundaries of each allotment defined; the mode of cultivation agreed on, and practically pursued:—above all, they beheld competent and voluntary husbandmen resident on the soil and acquainted with its nature; and they rejoiced in the anticipation of that day, when the "*wilderness and the solitary place* should *be glad for them, and the desert* should *rejoice and blossom as the rose.*"

11. These hopes, sanguine as they were, have been realized to their utmost extent. Whether the effects produced be considered in a *moral* or *pecuniary* point of view, and whether we contemplate the *direct* or *collateral* advantages of the system, the results have been equally gratifying: they have afforded the most delightful recompence to those on whom the labour and the responsibility devolved; and they have evidently satisfied the public mind on this important subject. Although it does not comport with the design of this work to enter into a detailed statement of the *moral* effects resulting from these institutions, many evidences of their existence will be found interspersed throughout the following pages. The following statement of *pecuniary* results in Southwark, unexampled as they are, is introduced rather as a proof of the interest excited and steadily maintained, than as affording an incentive to similar exertion:—this will be found in higher and infinitely more important considerations.

Abstract of Pecuniary Results in Southwark.

ABSTRACT *of the Results of the* TWELVE ASSOCIATIONS *of* SOUTHWARK, *to the 31st of March* 1820.

NAME OF ASSOCIATION.	Bibles & Tests. received.			Amount paid to the Auxiliary Society.
	Bibles.	Testam.	Total.	
				£. s. d.
Surrey Chapel	4705	4611	9316	2115. 0. 0
West-Lane Chapel	428	74	502	251.12. 1
St. John and Bermondsey	2542	855	3397	1366. 0.10
St. Saviour and St. Thomas	1831	376	2207	991.18. 6
St. George	2618	595	3213	1630.16. 3
Newington	2000	636	2636	1480.12. 6
Lower Rotherhithe	464	214	678	308. 6. 5
Upper Rotherhithe	679	156	835	709. 1. 3
Lambeth (South)	2069	332	2401	1354.18. 0
Christ Church	1068	136	1204	1037. 0. 0
St. Olave	478	120	598	504.14. 1
Lambeth (North)	1203	288	1491	839.11.11
Total	20,085	8393	28,478	12,589.11.10

ABSTRACT *of the* ACCOUNTS *of the* SOUTHWARK AUXILIARY SOCIETY, *to the 31st of March* 1820.

Total Amount received was . . . . . £.18,786 . 18 . 0

Of this sum the Twelve Associations have contributed, as above stated . . . . . £.12,589 . 11 . 10

Total Amount paid to the Parent Society . . . . £.16,887 . 0 . 9

Total Number of Bibles and Testaments issued from the depository:

To the Associations, as above stated . . .	28,473
Sold to Subscribers at reduced prices, according to privilege	2,917
Voted gratuitously for the supply of Prisons, Hospitals, &c.	327
Total number of Copies issued in Eight Years,	31,722

In the following sections, the mode of establishing and conducting a Bible Association, as pursued in Southwark, and subsequently adopted throughout the other districts of the Metropolis, will be fully explained. Such improvements as

have been suggested by experience are interwoven with this detail, which is now submitted, under a hope that it will be found applicable, either wholly or in part, to every place wherein it may be deemed expedient to form a GENTLEMEN'S BIBLE ASSOCIATION.

SECTION II.

RULES AND REGULATIONS.

1. The following are the Rules recommended by the Parent Committee for adoption, at meetings convened to establish Bible Associations:—

I. That an Association be formed for the purpose of contributing toward the circulation of the holy scriptures without note or comment, particularly among the poor of this neighbourhood; and that it be denominated the Bible Association of ———.

II. That every Member of this Association subscribe not less than one penny a week: the contributions to be payable quarterly, monthly, or weekly, at the option of the subscribers.

III. That for every twenty-four members, the Committee appoint a gratuitous collector, (or that office may be filled by the subscribers in rotation, each for a certain period,) to receive the contributions, who shall pay the same to the treasurer early in every month.

IV. That the business of the Association be under the management of a Treasurer, a Secretary, and a Committee, consisting of ——— other Members; and that the Treasurer, Secretary, and three-fourths of the other Members, who have most frequently attended the Committee, shall be eligible for the ensuing year.

V. That the Committee meet once every month, or oftener, on some day to be fixed by themselves; and that ——— should form a quorum.

VI. That the Committee divide this neighbourhood into districts, and appoint a Sub-Committee for each district, for the purpose of soliciting subscriptions from the inhabitants thereof.

VII. That the Committee shall make it their business to inquire whether any families or individuals residing within its sphere, are in want of Bibles or Testaments, and unable to procure them; in which case it shall be the duty of the Committee to furnish them therewith at prime cost, or reduced prices, according to their circumstances.

VIII. That the funds of this Association, or so much thereof as the Committee shall direct, whether arising from subscriptions, donations, or the sale of Bibles or Testaments, at prime cost or reduced prices, shall from time to time be expended in the purchase of Bibles and Testaments at prime cost, to be given or sold among the poor of this neighbourhood, as before directed; and that the remainder of such funds shall be remitted to the Auxiliary Bible Society at ———, or the Branch Bible Society at ———, in aid of its benevolent designs.

IX. That application be made by the Committee to the Auxiliary Bible Society at ———, or to the Branch Bible Society at ———, for permission to lay out the funds of this Association, in purchasing, at the depository of the said Society, Bibles and Testaments at the cost prices.

X. That a General Meeting of the subscribers be held at ———, the ——— in each year; when the accounts (as audited by the Committee)

shall be presented, the proceedings of the past year reported, and a treasurer, secretary, and ——— committee-men, appointed.

XI. That ——— be Treasurer, ——— Secretary, and ——— Members of the Committee for the year ensuing.

XII. That subscriptions and donations be now entered into; and that they be also received by the treasurer, secretary, and the members of the Committee.

2. When these regulations were originally issued, they appeared to their benevolent projector and to the Parent Committee fully adequate to the end designed; nor could any consideration short of that derived from experience justify the suggestion of any material alteration in their provisions. It may however be safely asserted, that the *Third* Rule involves two principles, the advantages of which, in their practical tendency, are more than questionable—that of a *personal*, and consequently uncertain sphere of exertion, instead of a local and defined district,—and the employment of individuals, as collectors, who are not *members of the Committee.* Nor is the last clause of the same Rule less objectionable; the inexpediency of any payments to the treasurer, except *in* Committee, being sufficiently obvious. Besides the omission of this Rule, several alterations, principally with a view to greater perspicuity, were adopted in Southwark; all the other leading provisions, and even the phraseology of the regulations issued by the Parent Committee, being studiously preserved. The reader, who collates the following Code with that already given under the preceding division of the section, will appreciate the very few discrepances, and make his election accordingly.

RESOLUTIONS *recommended for adoption at Meetings assembled for the Formation of* BIBLE ASSOCIATIONS.

At a Meeting of several friends to the British and Foreign Bible Society: ——— in the Chair:

RESOLVED,

I. That we form ourselves into an Association in connexion with the British and Foreign Bible Society, through the medium of the ——— Auxiliary (or Branch) Bible Society,* for the purpose of contributing towards the circulation of the holy scriptures without note or comment, particularly among the poor of this neighbourhood; and that it be denominated the Bible Association of ———.

II. That every person subscribing not less than one penny a week, or making a donation of one guinea or upwards at one time, shall be a member of this Association. The contributions to be paid annually, quarterly, monthly, or weekly, at the option of the subscriber.

* When a Bible Association is formed where no Auxiliary or Branch Society exists, the first part of the resolution should conclude thus:—"in connexion with the British and Foreign Bible Society."

Regulations recommended for adoption at the formation of Bible Associations.

III. That the business of the Association be under the management of a president, treasurer, three secretaries, and a committee, consisting of not less than ——— other members, eligible for re-election; and under the patronage of such other honorary members as the society or committee shall select and obtain.

IV. That the Committee shall meet once every month, or oftener, on some day to be fixed by themselves; and that five shall be a quorum.

V. That the Committee divide this neighbourhood into districts, and appoint collectors from among their own members for each district, for the purpose of soliciting and collecting donations and subscriptions; and that these contributions be paid to the treasurer, at the Monthly Committee Meetings.

VI. That the Committee shall make it their business to inquire whether any families or individuals residing within its sphere are in want of Bibles and Testaments, and unable to procure them; in which case it shall be the duty of the Committee to furnish them therewith, at prime cost, reduced prices, or gratuitously, according to their circumstances.

VII. That the funds of this Association, or so much of them as the Committee shall direct, whether arising from subscriptions, donations, or the sale of Bibles and Testaments, shall from time to time be expended in the purchase of Bibles and Testaments at prime cost, to be sold or given among the poor of this neighbourhood, as before directed, until they shall be adequately supplied with the holy scriptures; in which case, the amount of future subscriptions and donations shall be remitted to the ——— Auxiliary (or Branch) Bible Society, in aid of the general object of the British and Foreign Bible Society.

VIII. That ——— be president of this Association.

IX. That ——— be treasurer, ——— secretaries, and the following gentlemen members of the Committee for the year ensuing, with power to add to their number:

[*Here follow the names.*]

X. That a general meeting of the subscribers be held on the ——— in ——— in each year, when the accounts (as audited by the Committee) shall be presented, the proceedings of the past year reported, and a treasurer, secretaries, and committee-men appointed.

XI. That a copy of these Resolutions, signed by the president, be sent to the Committee of the ——— Auxiliary (or Branch) Bible Society, with a request that permission be granted to lay out the funds of this Association in purchasing, at the depository of the said society, Bibles and Testaments at the cost prices.

3.—OBSERVATIONS.

Many of the remarks which have already been made on the Rules of an Auxiliary Society (*see Chap.* II. *Section* II. *Third Division*) will be found equally applicable to those of a Bible Association: but there are some peculiarities in the nature and constitution of the latter, which require distinct consideration. As a society should never retain any rule which is not carried into effect, so the practical meaning and tendency of every regulation should be fully and clearly understood by those who are appointed to conduct the business of the institution.

Observations on the general Rules.—Extent of an Association.

I. Few circumstances connected with this subject are more important than the *extent* of the proposed Association. As a general rule, it may be safely recommended, that the district should not include a population *exceeding* ten or twelve thousand; but local considerations will, necessarily, induce many exceptions. There is reason to fear, that in many places, and especially in the metropolis, the districts embraced by existing Associations are too extensive to be regularly visited: parochial boundaries have usually governed the allotment; and where parishes are of moderate size, it is difficult to conceive a more definite and correct line; but when the extent or population exceeds a certain limit, the parish may be advantageously divided, as in the case of Lambeth and Rotherhithe in connexion with the Southwark Society. When parishes are unusually small, and do not supply, separately, a sufficient number of collectors, they may be beneficially united; a measure of which the same extensive district furnishes more than one example.

II. The *First* Rule contains a distinct recognition of the *single* object of the institution, which should always be kept steadily in view. In addition to many preceding remarks on this important subject, it may not be altogether unnecessary to observe, that the circulation of "notes and comments" in a *detached* form is equally a violation of the great principle of the society, as if they were bound up with the Bible.

III. It is extremely desirable, especially in the commencement of an Association, that the greatest caution be exercised in the selection of the Officers and Committee. Gentlemen who possess local information can here render very essential service, by their advice and recommendations. It will be perceived that the *Third* Rule does not enjoin any limitation to the number of the Committee, while it enables the members to secure the valuable services of active and prudent individuals. In reference to the *Fourth* Rule it should be observed, that the Quorum should be considered as *exclusive* of the Officers.

IV. The disadvantages of large Associations will be practically felt, in complying with the provision of the *Fifth* Rule. If the entire district be extensive, its sub-divisions must be proportionally dilated; and thus the design of the establishment will, in degree, be defeated. The active members of Bible Associations are, generally, selected from that class of society to which the value of time is best known; and if the

No Collector should be employed who is not a Member of the Committee.

portion required by their new and interesting engagement be greater than they can, with perfect convenience, spare from their more immediate duties, it is evident that the latter must be neglected:—on the other hand, the weekly hour reserved for the Association will be found insufficient if the district be extensive, and consequently the interests of the society must suffer. In all these arrangements, much will depend on local circumstances; but experience has proved the inexpediency of including more than one hundred houses in any one district: and perhaps the important purpose in view would be more fully answered, especially in Country Associations, if they were reduced to a moiety of this number. With regard to the last clause of this Rule, the injudicious practice of employing any individuals as Collectors who are not members of the Committee, has been already adverted to, and cannot be too strongly deprecated:—every Collector of a Bible Association should be a member of the Committee; and, if possible, every member should be a Collector. The practical import of this and other regulations will be more fully explained in the next section, which treats of the By-Laws;—and the duties of Collectors, in reference to the *Sixth* Rule, will be brought under view, in one connected series, in Chap. VIII.

v. The twofold object of the Association is distinctly recognised in the *Seventh* Rule.—The *first* duty is the home supply; but in proportion as this is discharged, the interest in the general object, and the desire to co-operate in its attainment, will extend. It is one of the most happy effects of Bible Associations, that they excite and foster a spirit of Christian benevolence:—the heart, expanding under the sacred influence, soars beyond the narrow confines of its former habits: the blessings diffused within the limited sphere of immediate duty cannot satisfy its desires: these take a wider range: the eternal happiness of all mankind becomes their object; and they long to "*take the wings of the morning, and fly to the uttermost parts of the earth.*" The feeling thus excited in the mind may be compared to the pebble cast into the untroubled ocean; the first circles that it produces are seen and marked, but they increase in number and in magnitude till they are lost in the boundless expanse.

vi. The observations which have been submitted on the subject of General Meetings in the preceding Chapters, will be found to apply generally; and such further remarks as ap-

pear necessary will be introduced in Section IV. of this Chapter. The Specimen of an Annual Report of a Bible Association will be included in Chap. VII.

VII. In fulfilling the duty enjoined by the *Eleventh* Rule, it is recommended that the Treasurer and Secretaries be deputed to present a copy of the Rules and Regulations to the Committee of the Auxiliary (or Branch) Society. The bands by which they are united to the latter will thus be strengthened; and an opportunity be afforded for mutual suggestions and explanations, by which the future proceedings may be materially facilitated.

SECTION III.

BY-LAWS OF THE COMMITTEE.

1. The origin of these regulations, and their importance in directing the proceedings of the Committee, have been adverted to in the Preliminary Observations on this Chapter. The fundamental Rules of the Institution, as detailed in the preceding Section, clearly define the nature of the object in view: but it is the peculiar design of the By-Laws to point out the *mode* by which that object shall be attained; and it may be safely asserted, that in no case has a Bible Association succeeded, to any extent, without having adopted these or similar minor regulations for the government of its executive members.

The following Code is recommended with confidence, as having borne the test of experience; while the success of those Associations by which it has been adopted satisfactorily demonstrates its efficiency.

2. BY-LAWS *recommended for adoption by the Committees of* BIBLE ASSOCIATIONS.

I. That the Committee meet at ——, on the —— day in every month, at — o'clock precisely.

II. As soon as a quorum is present, the Chair shall be taken by the President, or the Treasurer, or in their absence by one of the members of the Auxiliary Committee. If no one of these gentlemen be present, the Committee shall appoint a person to the Chair from among themselves.

III. It is earnestly requested that no member will leave the room, during the sitting of the Committee, without permission from the Chair.

IV. That the order of proceeding shall be,

1. To call over the names of the Committee, and mark off those who are present.
2. To read, and correct or confirm, the Minutes of the preceding meeting, and dispose of the business arising therefrom.
3. To call for a written report from the Collectors of the districts, in order.

Code of By-Laws recommended for adoption.

4. To receive the Treasurer's and the Cash and Bible Secretaries' reports of the state of the funds, and of the receipts and deliveries of Bibles and Testaments; with any official communications the secretaries may have to make.—After which, fresh propositions shall be taken into consideration.

V. The sphere of this Association shall be divided into convenient districts; to each of which two or more members of the Committee shall be attached as Collectors, who shall appoint one of their number as District Secretary, and apprise the Committee of such appointment in their first Monthly Report.

VI. When any district is not represented in the Committee, nor a report presented by its Collectors, the secretary shall be directed to remind them, by letter, of their omission, and to request their greater regularity in future.

VII. Nothing shall be procured for the use of this Association, nor any bills be discharged, without a regular vote of the Committee.

VIII. No member of the Committee shall, on any account, be paid for his services.

IX. The Secretaries shall be *ex-officio* members of all Sub-Committees.

X. The Secretaries shall call a Special Meeting of the Committee on receiving a requisition signed by any five of its members, or may do so on their own authority: such meeting not to take place until at least three days after the date of the summons, which shall specify the object of the meeting.

XI. The Bible Secretary is empowered to procure Bibles and Testaments when necessary; and shall report to the Committee every month the state of the depository. The Cash Secretary shall also report monthly the state of the funds of the Association.

XII. That the Bible Secretary inscribe or stamp the name of this Association on the title-page of every Bible and Testament issued by him; and insert the number of the receiver on the page containing the 91st Psalm, and the 15th Chapter of the Gospel of St. John.*

XIII. No Bible or Testament shall be gratuitously granted without a vote of the Committee, after a strict investigation of the circumstances of the case.

XIV. The Collectors of each district shall present, through their secretary, a written report to every monthly meeting of the Committee, containing every particular relative to the state of their district.

XV. It shall be the duty of the Collectors to endeavour to obtain the *free*† contributions of those who have been supplied with Bibles and Testaments, provided their circumstances justify the application.

XVI. No *family*, after having received one Bible and one Testament *under* the cost prices, shall be supplied with any more copies under such cost price without the approbation of the General Committee.

XVII. The Collectors shall re-visit the whole of their respective districts at least once in every twelve months.

XVIII. The Collectors are requested to call punctually for the weekly subscriptions *every week*—to solicit new subscriptions occasionally throughout

* It will readily be perceived that these Chapters are incidentally suggested: every Association will insert the number in such parts of the Sacred Volume as they may think proper, but every member of the Committee should be acquainted with the precise place in which to look for it when necessary.

† *Free* contributors are those who do not require Bibles and Testaments, but subscribe for the benefit of others.

their several districts—and to insert in their monthly reports the names and address of such persons as they may consider proper to be invited to join the Committee.

XIX. That the Collectors shall make inquiry every three months of all the pawnbrokers within their respective districts, whether any Bibles or Testaments are pledged, and to what extent; and ascertain, if possible, the names and address of the parties who have pledged them; and shall include all such information in their next monthly report. The Collectors are also requested to endeavour to interest pawnbrokers in the great object of the Bible Society.

XX. At the Committee Meetings in February, May, August, and November, a Sub-Committee shall be appointed to prepare and bring to the next meeting of the Committee a draft of a report to the ensuing Conference. Such report to be taken into consideration, and, when adopted, to be handed to the secretaries, who shall fill up the blanks, sign, and present the same.*

XXI. That the Bibles and Testaments issued by this Association shall be sold at the cost prices, as specified in the annexed table:—but the Collectors are authorised, in cases of poverty, or under peculiar circumstances, to deliver copies when not less than one-half of the cost price has been paid.

BIBLES.†	s.	d.
Small Pica, Marginal References,	14	0
Small Pica	10	6
Long Primer	9	6
Brevier, Marginal References	11	10
Brevier	7	2
Minion	6	0
Nonpareil	4	2
Pocket, Minion-type	5	7
Pocket, Nonpareil-type	4	6

TESTAMENTS.		s.	d.
Pica	bound in Calf	4	3
Pica	Sheep	3	3
Long Primer	Calf	3	2
Long Primer	Sheep	2	2
Brevier	Calf	2	3
Brevier	Sheep	1	6
Brevier	Linen Cloth.	1	3
Pocket	Calf	2	1
Pocket	Sheep	1	6

XXII. No new By-Law shall be made, nor any existing By-Law repealed or altered, without one month's previous notice being given, and a copy of the proposed alteration sent to every member of the Committee.

3.—OBSERVATIONS.

The reader is referred to Chap. II. (*Section* III. *Fifth Division*) for many general remarks on the nature and tendency of those regulations. Such further observations as appear necessary will now be submitted.

1. It is very desirable that a place should be *gratuitously* obtained for the meetings of the Committee. It frequently

* This By-Law is only applicable where Conferences are held;—these are at present confined to the metropolis, but may, with considerable advantage, be instituted in those places where several Associations are connected with the same Auxiliary (or Branch) Society.

† The cost prices specified in this list are those of the present time (March 1821). Every alteration of price is communicated by the Parent Committee to the Secretaries of Auxiliary Societies, who should immediately apprise the Secretaries of their Associations; and the latter should promptly inform the Collectors, and make the requisite corrrection in this By-Law.

Importance of punctuality, and adherence to prescribed order of proceeding.

happens that a school-room is offered for this purpose, or one of the apartments belonging to a public establishment; and it is of importance that it be a place to which every member can come with the most perfect freedom. The day and hour should be selected which are the most convenient to the majority of the Committee. The advantages of *punctuality* in the attendance of Committee Meetings cannot be too strongly enforced. In this, as in other respects, the example of the officers will have a powerful influence on the other members of the Committee.

II. A due attention to the provisions of the *Second* and two following By-Laws will materially tend to facilitate the business. The Chair should always be taken at the hour specified; and if the officers can make it convenient to be at the committee-room half an hour previously, it will expedite the business, especially if the Collectors be informed of this arrangement, as they will then apply for any requisite assistance. The regular attendance of the members of the Auxiliary Committee should be always encouraged, and their advice or suggestions received with respectful attention. The gentleman who presides should have a copy of the By-Laws before him, and should strictly maintain the decorum and order of the meeting. Much valuable time will be saved by a strict adherence to the prescribed arrangement of the committee-business, which it is the peculiar province of the secretaries to enforce.

The nature of the Collectors' and Officers' Reports will be considered in Chap. VII., in order to avoid repetition, and to bring the whole subject under review in a connected series of observations.

III. The practical operation of the *Fifth* By-Law, as regards the arrangement of the districts, has been considered in the preceding section. In the appointment of Collectors, it will be found advantageous to leave the members at liberty to select those districts which they respectively prefer, and to make their own election of their colleagues. In some of the Associations connected with the Southwark Society, the secretaries have rendered very essential services to the institution by occasionally assisting the Collectors.

IV. The duty enjoined by the *Sixth* By-Law, though a painful one, should always be impartially fulfilled. It is much more easy to arrest the progress of decay, than to recover the ground which has been lost by inattention; and

no rule of the society should be considered a *dead letter*. This remark is equally applicable to the *Ninth* By-Law:—the more frequently the secretaries can make it convenient to attend the meetings of Sub-Committees, the more likely is it that the object of their appointment will be attained.

v. Although cases may sometimes occur to justify the extraordinary meetings of the Committee, authorised by the *Tenth* By-Law, they should be held as seldom as possible. An hour or two, monthly, will be found quite sufficient for the usual duties of a Committee, and the valuable time of its members should never be trifled with.

vi. The observations on the duties of the secretaries of an Auxiliary Society (*See Chap.* II. *Section* III. *Ninth Division*) may afford some useful suggestions to those who occupy a similar situation in Bible Associations, so as to explain the tendency of the *Eleventh* By-Law; but the subject will be more explicitly treated in Chap. VIII. Section I.

vii. Great advantage has been found to result from the regulation contained in the *Twelfth* By-Law, as every Bible and Testament found at a pawnbroker's or book-stall can be immediately traced to the original receiver. The observation on the *Nineteenth* By-Law will furnish a satisfactory illustration of this remark. The propriety of the *Thirteenth* By-Law will be more fully appreciated on reference to Chap. VIII. Section II.; as the regulations of the "LOAN-FUND" provide for all cases of emergency.

viii. The important duty enjoined by the *Fourteenth* By-Law, and the facility with which it may be discharged, will be more fully understood on referring to the Specimen of a Monthly Report, Chap. VII. Section V.

ix. In reference to the *Fifteenth* By-Law, it may be sufficient, in this place, to observe, that while the two-fold object of Bible Associations should never be lost sight of by the Collectors, they are recommended to exercise the greatest delicacy and prudence in soliciting free contributions from the labouring classes of society; and in every instance where the *real* comforts of a family would be abridged thereby, such contributions should be kindly, but firmly declined. This part of the subject, which involves the most important considerations, will be treated of more at large in the sequel.

x. Although the funds of the Association are prudently protected by the *Sixteenth* By-Law, it will be observed that

Success depends principally on the attention of Collectors.

a door is left open for the supply of individuals going to service, &c.

XI. The provisions of the *Seventeenth* and *Eighteenth* By-Laws involve no inconsiderable portion of the practical details of a Bible Association. In every well-organized Association, provided the districts be adequately furnished with Collectors, a *perpetual* system of re-visiting will be kept up, and an accurate knowledge of the neighbourhood be obtained. But it is advisable that the *whole* of the district should be periodically re-visited. Of the importance of punctuality in collecting, it is scarcely possible to say too much. The success of every Association will always be in direct proportion to the degree of regularity evinced by the Collectors; and although it has been said, that the poor had neither the ability nor the inclination to co-operate in this good work, the event has proved that they have both: they have manifested the greatest readiness to subscribe, not only to procure the sacred volume for themselves, but to promote its universal diffusion; and in many cases the Collectors have felt it their duty to accept a part, only, of what they had liberally offered to contribute. The *ability* of the poor who subscribe is evinced by the aggregate amount of their contributions—by the decided preference given to the *highest* priced Bibles—and, in numerous instances, by the continuance of their regular subscriptions after they have obtained the wished-for treasure.

XII. The *Nineteenth* By-Law had its origin in the opposition made to the society, on the grounds which this regulation proposes to examine. Few objections have been more strongly and pertinaciously urged, than that which is founded on the presumption that the subscribers would pawn the Bibles and Testaments supplied by the Bible Society: repeated and strict investigations, in various places, have however completely refuted this objection. In no part have these inquiries been more systematically and perseveringly pursued than in Southwark, where it has been correctly ascertained, that of 25,484 Bibles and Testaments, circulated up to March 1818, only twenty-four copies (fourteen of which were issued by one Association) had found their way to the pawnbrokers, being in the proportion of *one* to every ELEVEN HUNDRED copies issued. The result of a similar investigation in Liverpool, where more than 30,000 copies had been distributed by the Auxiliary Institution and its connected societies, appears to have been still more satisfac-

Result of inquiries among the Pawnbrokers of Liverpool and Newcastle.

tory:—in their second Annual Report, the Committee of the Ladies' Branch of that Society observe:—

"Your Committee have made repeated visits to the pawnbrokers in this town, and the result has been highly satisfactory. After every pains in their power to elicit the truth, only *one* Bible has been discovered; and although their vigilance may, from interested motives, have been, in some instances, eluded, your Committee believe that these instances have been exceedingly rare. The pawnbrokers have generally declared, that they neither had received nor would receive the Society's Bibles; and many of them have become contributors as well as their servants."

And the following extract from the first Annual Report of the Tindale Ward Auxiliary Society affords a gratifying evidence of similar results in another extensive district:—

"Your Committee cannot avoid remarking upon one circumstance most nearly connected with the success of the society, the circulation of a report, 'that the poor were so crammed with Bibles, that the pawnbrokers' shops were filled with them; and that the booksellers could afford to sell them (so purchased of the poor) at half price.' Groundless as such assertions must have appeared to your Committee, it yet became their duty to inquire minutely into these alleged facts, not only as they were said to exist in their own district, but in the town of Newcastle, where the *fourth* Auxiliary Bible Society in the kingdom had been established. It is with pleasure your Committee state the result of their investigation to be, that during the whole period of the late scarcity, 'not more than *two* Bibles had been left at a pawnbroker's shop, and that only for a short time:' and 'but *one* Testament had been offered for sale' by a little girl, who had picked it up in one of the soldiers' billet-rooms. This latter however was, even in the first instance, refused, from the society's mark being observed on the back."

XIII. The practical application of the *Twentieth* By-Law will be fully explained in Section V. of this Chapter.

XIV. In reference to the *Twenty-first* By-Law, Collectors should be particularly careful *not* to inform the subscribers that they are empowered to deliver Bibles and Testaments under the cost prices. They are indeed, by this By-Law, authorised to deliver copies before the cost price is *completed;* but this power should always be exercised with peculiar caution and discretion, not only to prevent jealousy on the part of subscribers, but the misapplication of the funds. In those few cases, where copies are delivered under the cost prices, the subscribers should be distinctly told, that they are supplied in the confidence of their continuing their subscription, and that the cost prices are considerably lower than those at which similar copies could be procured from booksellers.

XV. The tendency of the *Twenty-second* By-Law will be evident. Many disadvantages have resulted from frequent and unnecessary changes in the regulations which govern

societies; and while the Committees possess an undoubted right to make any alterations in their By-Laws, this right should not be exercised, except in cases of obvious necessity.

*** Specimens of all the Books and Reports referred to in the By-Laws will be found, in one connected series, in Chap. VII. Section V. with such remarks and explanations as may be necessary to illustrate their practical tendency.

SECTION IV.

THE MODE OF ESTABLISHING AND ORGANIZING A BIBLE ASSOCIATION.

1. A slight review of the By-Laws of the Auxiliary Society, and the observations annexed to them, (*See Chap.* II. *Section* III.) will be sufficient to shew, that they are framed with particular reference to the subject on which we are now about to enter. It will be recollected, that the several districts of Southwark were regularly defined, and respectively placed under the care of a Sub-Committee, who were instructed to adopt measures for forming a Bible Association in their district. In order to acquire a perfect knowledge of the plan adopted and pursued, it is only necessary to follow one of these District Committees, and to trace their proceedings until the object was finally attained.

2. Having interested a few serious and active individuals, and secured their co-operation by a clear and simple statement of the design, they were invited to meet the District Committee at a suitable place,—generally the house of one of the members. At this, the *first meeting* of the Provisional Committee, after every requisite explanation had been given, the Chairman (who was always a member of the Auxiliary Committee) asked each individual present, for the names and address of such of his friends and acquaintance in the district as he conceived likely to promote the important design, and to become efficient members of the Committee of the intended Bible Association; strongly impressing on the attention of those present, the importance of moral and religious character in their selection, in preference to any other consideration. Fifteen or twenty names having been thus procured and entered on the Minutes, they were subsequently transcribed into two or three separate lists, which were numbered from one upwards. The following Resolution was then adopted:—

"Resolved—That *A. B.* and *C. D.* be deputed to wait personally on the individuals comprised in list No. I. for the purpose of endeavouring to interest them in the projected association, and to request the favour of their attendance at the adjournment of this Meeting."

Similar resolutions were then adopted with respect to the other lists, and the respective deputations were furnished with a supply of printed papers for circulation among their friends. *

* The most useful papers for this purpose are Nos. I, V, & VII, of the Appendix.

Second Meeting of the Provisional Committee.

If any one of the new members appeared qualified to act as Secretary, the following resolution was adopted :—

"Resolved—That *E. F.* be requested to officiate as Provisional Secretary to this Committee; that he be authorised to get 250 notices printed,* and that he send one timely to each person now present or specified in the lists."

If none of the new Members appeared qualified to act as secretaries, the above resolution was deferred till the next meeting, and the Auxiliary District Committee continued to issue notices in the mean time.

The meeting then adjourned for a few days.

The interval between the first and second meeting was occupied in spreading information, and soliciting additional *personal* aid ; the co-operation of clergymen and ministers was requested, and their knowledge of character and ability was always found eminently conducive to the progress of the work.

In reference to this primary meeting, it is only necessary to observe, that the individuals engaged should be prudently and cautiously selected.—It is to be presumed that the gentlemen who compose Auxiliary Committees possess an adequate knowledge of the inhabitants of the district, to enable them to select those who are best qualified to fulfil the duties assigned them. The most clear and correct information relative to the object in view, should be diffused at the outset, and every misapprehension be promptly explained.

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3. At the *Second Meeting*, from twenty to thirty individuals usually attended ; and the members of the District Committee—who were always assisted on these occasions by one or more of the secretaries of the Auxiliary Society—having answered every objection, explained the principles and object of the institution, and rendered the plan perfectly intelligible to those who were present; the following RESOLUTIONS were adopted:—

I. Resolved—That it is highly expedient to form a Bible Association in this parish [*or district*] ; and that it be denominated the ——— Bible Association.

II. Resolved—That the concerns of this Association be under the management of a President, Treasurer, three Secretaries, and a Committee of not less than ——— other persons.

III. Resolved—That *A.B.*, *C.D.*, and *E.F.* be a Sub-Committee of patronage, and that they submit to the next meeting the names of suitable persons for President and Treasurer.

IV. Resolved—That *G.H.*, *I.K.*, and *L.M.* be a Sub-Committee, for dividing this parish [*or district*] into [12, 18, 24, &c. *according to the extent*

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* FORM OF NOTICE.

"———————— BIBLE ASSOCIATION.

"The next Meeting of the Provisional Committee will be held at ——, on the evening of next —— the —— day of ——, at — o'clock precisely.

E. F. SECRETARY."

By drawing the pen through the word "Provisional," any surplus copies of this notice may be subsequently used for the Permanent Committee.

Observations on the Minutes of the Second Meeting.

and population] sub-divisions; that they specify, on different sheets of paper, the respective boundaries of each, with the several streets, lanes, &c. comprised therein, and that they submit the same to the next meeting.

V. Resolved—That *N. O.* be requested to bring to the next meeting a Code of Rules for the government of the intended Association, leaving blanks for the names of the President, Treasurer, Secretaries, and Committee.

VI. Resolved—That *P. Q.*, *R. S.*, and *T. U.* (*having previously consented to act,*) be proposed to the General Meeting as Secretaries for the ensuing year.

VII. Resolved—That *W. X.* and *Y. Z.* be requested to examine and report to the next meeting the most suitable place for holding the General Meeting.

VIII. Resolved—That the following persons be proposed to the General Meeting as Members of the Committee for the ensuing year, with power to add to their number.

[*Here the names of those who had agreed to act on the Committee were inserted.*]

When a sufficient number of persons to constitute a Committee could not be procured at the Second Meeting, the following Resolution was adopted:—

IX. Resolved—That *B. A.*, *D. C.*, *F. E.* be a Sub-Committee, to bring to the next meeting a list of persons suitable for committee-men, and who shall have consented to the appointment.

If no particular business demanded attention, the Meeting was then adjourned for three or four days by the following Resolution:—

X. Resolved—That this meeting do now adjourn to next ——— the ——— instant, at —— o'clock precisely, at this house; and that the secretary give timely notice to those who are now present, and such other persons as he may deem suitable.

As these Resolutions involve some measures which materially affect the future prosperity of the Society, the following OBSERVATIONS will not be considered out of place.

I. The Committee being authorised by the Third general Rule to add to their number, it is unnecessary to admit many members in this stage of the proceedings. Every day will increase their knowledge of suitable characters; and it is only requisite to secure the services of a sufficient number of individuals to carry the preliminary arrangements into effect.

II. In reference to the Third Resolution, the clerical head of the parish should always be solicited to fill the office of President: should he decline, a respectable layman should be selected:—and as the Treasurer is Chairman *ex officio* of the Committee in the absence of the President, an intelligent, prudent, and respectable person should likewise be chosen for this office.

III. In the division of the town, parish, &c. into districts, the observations already offered in Section II. will be found to apply. These arrangements should be made by those gentlemen of the Committee who possess the greatest local knowledge.

IV. The duty enjoined by the Fifth Resolution is usually fulfilled by the Secretary, who prepares a fair copy of the rules recommended for adoption. (*See Section* II.)—It is certainly at the discretion of every Association to adopt these or any other regulations; but it is respectfully submitted, that many advantages will result from having one uniform plan of operation throughout the whole system.

V. Few considerations are more important than those connected with the choice of the Secretaries. They should not only be active and zealous, acquainted with the details of business, and interested in the object, but respectable individuals who have a certain portion of time at their own command: they should also possess that degree of talent and influence which may enable them promptly to assist the collectors in any case of difficulty and doubt. The regular and punctual attendance of Secretaries at the meetings of the Committee is of very material consequence:—if they be remiss in the discharge of this duty, the collectors will speedily manifest a similar declension; while their punctuality and judgment will not only encourage the collectors, but strengthen their own hands in the impartial administration of the rules. It may be proper to observe, that from this time the Secretaries act as such, in conducting the preliminary business.

VI. As much of the success which has attended Bible Associations may be ascribed to the tone and spirit which have been excited by the primary General Meeting, too much attention cannot be directed to those preparatory measures which are now under consideration. The place, day, and hour should be selected which appear most accordant with the comfort and convenience of the inhabitants; and it is evident, that the co-operation and harmony, which so particularly characterize this great design, will be most effectually preserved by avoiding every thing partaking of a sectarian aspect. The place of meeting should be central and commodious; and the time appointed, such as not to interfere with the duties and engagements of the labouring classes.

VII. In reference to the Tenth Resolution, great advantages have been derived from a strict adherence to the time appointed for committee-meetings, by which habits of regularity and attention are inculcated and confirmed.

VIII. At the close of every meeting of the Provisional Committee, the Secretary should immediately furnish an active individual of each Sub-Committee, then appointed, with a copy of the resolution which requires attention; and *he* should

Third Meeting of the Provisional Committee.

take due care to summon his colleagues, and proceed to the business for which they were appointed. The several Sub-Committees, if composed of judicious persons, will find ample time to perform their respective duties within the prescribed period of adjournment: should any difficulty occur, they apply to the District Committee of the Auxiliary Society, whose duty it is to afford them full information and any requisite assistance.

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4. At the *Third Meeting*, the several Sub-Committees presented their respective reports, which, with any necessary amendments, were adopted.

The Resolutions to be submitted to the General Meeting were completed, by inserting the names of the President, Treasurer, Secretaries, and Committee.

The sheets of paper, specifying the several sub-divisions of the parish [*or district*] designed to comprise the Association, having been given in, the names of two or more members were attached to each, one of whom was appointed Secretary of the district; and these arrangements were regularly entered on the Minutes.

The following Resolutions were then adopted:

I. Resolved—That the General Meeting be held at [*here specify the place*] on the evening of —— the —— day of ——, at —— o'clock precisely; and that the President be requested by the secretaries to take the chair.

II. Resolved—That a circular letter be addressed by the secretaries to the following clergymen, ministers, and other gentlemen, respectfully requesting the favour of their company, to take part in the proceedings of the meeting; and that the assistance of the Committee of the Auxiliary Society to conduct the business be requested.

[*Here insert a list of proper persons to be invited as Speakers on the occasion, to each of whom one of the hand-bills to be adopted by the following Resolution should be enclosed.*]

III. Resolved—That the following form of a hand-bill be adopted: viz.

"———— **Bible Association.**

A GENERAL MEETING,

FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF

A BIBLE ASSOCIATION,

IN CONNEXION WITH THE —— AUXILIARY, OR BRANCH, SOCIETY,

To include the Co-operation of all Classes in supplying the Poor, particularly of this District, with the Holy Scriptures,

WILL BE HELD AT ————

On ————, the ———— of ———— 182—,

AT — O'CLOCK PRECISELY,

————————, *in the Chair.*

The Attendance of the Inhabitants, particularly of the Labouring Classes, is earnestly requested.

Suitable Accommodation will be provided for those LADIES *who may be desirous of promoting this important design.*"

Observations on the Minutes of the Third Meeting.

IV. Resolved—That the secretaries be authorised to have —— copies of the hand-bill printed [*about as many as there are houses in the parish or district*] forthwith; also, —— copies on large paper, as posting-bills; and that they be laid on the table at the next meeting.

V. Resolved—That the secretaries be authorised to procure such books, papers, &c. as may be necessary for the purposes of the intended Association.

VI. Resolved—That *A. B.* and *C. D.* be requested to prepare a fair copy of the order of proceedings for the General Meeting, and submit the same to the next meeting; leaving blanks for the names of the different Speakers.

VII. Resolved—That this Meeting do now adjourn to —— the —— of ——, at — o'clock *precisely;* and that the secretaries give notice accordingly.

On these Resolutions it may be OBSERVED,—

I. That, generally speaking, the *early* part of the week is the most suitable for a general meeting. In large towns the evening of Monday has been found the most convenient for the labouring classes. In the choice of speakers, care should be taken to invite gentlemen of every denomination of professing Christians. If any occurrence prevent the President from taking the chair, the Committee should select, timely, another respectable and judicious person as the Chairman.

II. In distributing the hand-bills, the Sub-Committees should be careful that every family is supplied: all classes of the community thus acquire a knowledge of the object in view, and are at the same time apprised of the place where they may receive more full information.

III. It will be perceived that the duties prescribed by these Resolutions devolve principally on the Secretaries, who should see that every necessary arrangement is completed previous to the last meeting of the Provisional Committee: the hand-bills, with any other requisite papers, should be divided into as many parcels as there are districts: if answers are not obtained from the gentlemen who have been invited as Speakers, they are personally waited on; and the attendance of every member of the Provisional Committee, and of the District Committee of the Auxiliary Society, is particularly requested at the next meeting.

IV. The "Order of Proceedings," to which reference is made in the *Sixth* Resolution, will be given in the sequel.

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5. At the *Fourth Meeting*, the Secretary of each district having taken charge of the paper describing its boundaries, &c. the following RESOLUTIONS were adopted:—

I. Resolved—That a sufficient number of copies of the hand-bill, announcing the General Meeting, with any other papers which may be required

Proceedings at the Fourth Meeting of the Provisional Committee.

for circulation,* be now delivered to the Secretaries of each Sub-Committee, the members of which are requested to distribute them throughout their several districts.

II. Resolved—That the Secretaries take charge of the posting-bills now produced, and that they have them placed in conspicuous parts of the parish [*or district*] at least three days before the General Meeting: and that they send copies of the hand-bill to the Ministers of the several places of worship in the vicinity, with a request that the meeting may be announced to their respective congregations.

III. Resolved—That *A. B.*, *C. D.*, and *E. F.* be a Committee of arrangement, to superintend the fitting-up of the place of meeting; that they provide a sufficiency of seats and lights, and have a proper platform erected.

IV. Resolved—That the Secretaries prepare two copies of the Order of Proceedings for the evening (one to be laid before the Chairman,—the other before the Secretary, who announces each Speaker's name as he comes forward), copy the Resolutions, and deliver them to the several Speakers, and assign each his place; and that they attend at the place of meeting one hour previous to that appointed for taking the chair, in order to receive the gentlemen invited, and to see that the preliminary arrangements are completed.

V. Resolved—That *G. H.*, *I. K.*, *L. M.*, *N. O.*, *P. Q.*, and *R. S.* be a Committee of Accommodation to attend at the place of meeting at ——— o'clock, (at least an hour before that which is appointed for taking the chair,) in order to shew the company to their seats, and to preserve due order and decorum during the meeting.

VI. Resolved—That the gentlemen composing the District Committee of the Auxiliary Society be requested to attend, at the close of the meeting, with plates, in order to receive contributions.

VII. Resolved—That the Secretaries summon the members of the Committee to meet at ———, on next ——— the ——— instant, at —— o'clock precisely, and that they also give notice to the members of the District Committee of the Auxiliary Society.

In reference to these Resolutions, the following OBSERVATIONS are submitted:—

I. It will tend to the publicity of the intended meeting, if respectable shopkeepers are requested to place some of the hand-bills in their windows, especially in considerable thoroughfares. It has not unfrequently happened that strangers have been thus induced to attend these meetings; and, in consequence of what they have there witnessed, to adopt similar measures for the benefit of other and more distant districts.

II. It has been found highly advantageous to accommodate *every* individual with a seat, as it conduces to the order and decorum of the meeting. Churches, chapels, schools, &c. in the vicinity will furnish a supply of forms and benches, where required. The Sub-Committee of accommodation should comprise every member of the Committee who is not otherwise engaged; and it ought to be their individual, as well as

* The most useful papers for this purpose are Nos. VII, VIII, IX, & X. of the Appendix.

collective object, to maintain that order and decorum which should always characterize the meetings of a Bible Society.

III. It has been the custom, in the establishment of some Associations, to receive the *names* and *address* of contributors at the close of the general meeting; but it will be found beneficial to omit this practice, and for one of the Speakers to inform the auditors that they will be called on, by the collectors, in their respective districts.

IV. The first meeting of the permanent Committee should take place as soon as possible after the general meeting: if on the day immediately succeeding the meeting, it will be the more desirable.

6. Having thus traced the progress of those measures which have usually preceded the establishment of a Bible Association, it may be proper to remark, that in many instances the whole of the preliminary business has been transacted in two or three meetings of the Provisional Committee, and occasionally even in one. There is, however, a risk in accelerating these important arrangements, which should always be conducted with judgment and order. Local circumstances, and the prudence of those who are charged with the executive duties, will suggest the proper line of conduct to be pursued, and induce the postponement of a general meeting, rather than expedite it before those arrangements are matured.

The next subject for consideration, is the mode of conducting the General Meeting for the regular establishment of the Society.

7. ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

AT THE GENERAL MEETING.

1. *The Chairman*	opens the business of the meeting; states the object in view; and concludes by referring, for a more full explanation, to *A.B.*
2. *A. B.* *	explains more fully the design of the British and Foreign Bible Society; the nature of the Auxiliary Society; and of the Association:—the connexion which subsists between the relative parts:—the manner in which the funds of each institution

* This requisite information is generally given by one of the Secretaries of the Auxiliary Society; or, in his absence, by any other gentleman who is master of the subject.

Order of Proceedings at the General Meeting.

	are applied; and the privileges to which they are severally entitled: concluding by a reference to the Code of Rules and Regulations, which will be submitted for approval and adoption.
3. *C. D. (one of the Secretaries of the proposed Association)*	reads the Rules and Regulations, as adopted by the Provisional Committee, including the names of the President, Officers, and Committee.
4. *E. F.*	moves No. 1— "That the Rules and Regulations now read be adopted by this meeting, and that the gentlemen named therein be the President, Officers, and Committee of this Association, and that the latter have power to add to their number."
5. *G. H.*	seconds the Motion No. 1.
6. *I. K.*	The Motion No. 1. having been put and carried, moves No. 2— "That while this meeting gratefully acknowledges the kindness of the President, in complying with the request of the Provisional Committee, it desires to express, thus publickly, an earnest hope that the Association may experience the benefits of his personal attendance at the regular meetings of the Committee."
7. *L. M.*	seconds the Motion No. 2.
8. *The President*	The Motion No. 2. having been put *by the Mover*, and carried, acknowledges the Resolution.
9. *N. O.*	moves No 3— "That this meeting confides in the judgment and prudence of the Officers and Committee now appointed, to preserve unimpaired the pure and single principle of the Parent Institution."
10. *P. Q.*	seconds the Motion No. 3.
11. *R. S.*	The Motion No. 3. having been put and carried, moves No. 4— "That in thus recognising the claims of the British and Foreign Bible Society to general support, this meeting respectfully congratulates the Committee of that Institution, on the manifest extension of the Divine blessing in prospering their exertions."
12. *T. V.*	seconds the Motion No. 4.
13. *W. X.*	The Motion No. 4. having been put and carried, moves No. 5— "That the thanks of this meeting be presented to the Chairman for his attention to the business of the evening."

Observations on the Proceedings at the General Meeting.

14. *Y. Z.*	seconds the Motion No. 5.
	The Question No. 5, having been put *by the Mover*, and carried,
15. *The Chairman*....	acknowledges the Resolution,—refers to the plates for receiving contributions—and adjourns the meeting to the day specified in the General Rules.

OBSERVATIONS.

I. In the proceedings of a General Meeting, and especially of that for the establishment of a Society, it is of the greatest importance that the object should be clearly and fully explained, and the results of similar institutions in other places correctly detailed. In this "Order of Proceedings" it will be observed, that this important duty is assigned to one of the secretaries of the Auxiliary Society, whose statements should be rather practical than argumentative; his language simple and clear; but, above all, whose sentiments should be of that liberal and catholic nature, which best accords with the character and design of the institution whose merits he advocates.

II. The object of Bible Associations being to excite an interest in the great body of our population, it is evident, that every exertion should be used to induce a full attendance of the labouring classes of the community. For this purpose, a decided preference should be shewn them in the invitation to the General Meeting: having never before heard a similar appeal to their feelings and their judgment, the effect is decisive. The object, pure and simple in its nature, is comprehended, while its value and importance are felt; and the conviction that even *their* limited support may be rendered conducive to the promotion of the glorious design, and *their* services availing in the extension of its benefits, produces a moral effect to which they had hitherto been strangers. They are attracted from sensual and degrading pleasures, and presented with a view of higher and superior enjoyments. That which they have long wanted, is proved to be within their reach; and they feel a strong desire to co-operate in a cause where pursuit confers its own reward, and where ultimate success is certain.

But in order to effect this,—to give the Poor this new moral tone of feeling, and to instil this new and pure incentive to action,—the attention of the *Speakers* at the General Meeting should be directed to the peculiar character of the auditors. It will easily be perceived, that many of those addresses which would be admirable at the establishment of an Auxiliary Society, are out of place at that of an

Association; where simplicity of language is one of the principal means by which the attention of a popular assembly can be engaged. And especially, those cheering anecdotes and interesting facts, of which no friend to the Bible Society should be ignorant, ought to be brought forward; and, if prudently introduced, the effect is irresistible:—they exhibit the most striking illustration of the design, and they are remembered when argument is forgotten.—It is scarcely necessary to observe, that no anecdotes should be introduced which are not well authenticated.

III. It may not be improper to suggest, that the length of the General Meeting ought not to exceed from two to three hours; the auditory should depart with a desire of hearing more of "*this new thing*," rather than fatigued and inconvenienced by too long detention from their homes and families. On this part of the subject, the reader is referred to Chap. I. Section XIV. and to Chap. II. Section V. for such general observations as appeared necessary to elucidate the nature and character of those meetings.

8. As the ORGANIZATION of the new society cannot be considered complete until after the first regular monthly meeting of the Committee, it is necessary to detail the proceedings of that meeting.

The chair being taken at the hour appointed, the names of the members present are marked off in the list, and those of visitors inserted in the Rough Minute Book:—the Minute Secretary next reads the Resolutions adopted at the General Meeting, including the Rules of the Association. The duties that devolve on the Committee, as arising out of those proceedings, are then regularly fulfilled by the adoption of the following RESOLUTIONS:—

1. That the duties of the respective secretaries be thus defined,—

I. That *A. B.* be MINUTE Secretary.

II. That *C. D.* be CASH Secretary.

III. That *E. F.* be BIBLE Secretary.

and that the Minute Secretary furnish his colleagues and the treasurer with their proper books and papers. *

2. That the following individuals be added to the Committee.

[*Here insert the names and address of new members, each of whom should be proposed by one and seconded by another member, to whom he is personally known.*]

3. That the district embraced by this Association be sub-divided as under: viz.

[*Here specify the Streets, Lanes, &c. comprised in the District No.* 1, *and proceed in a similar manner to describe every other district correctly.*] †

* See Specimens, Chap. VII. Section 5.

† See Chap. VII. Section IV. for a more full explanation.

Resolutions adopted at their primary Meeting.

The Minute Secretary then reads, distinctly, the description of No. 1, *and the Chairman requests the members present to offer their services for those districts which they prefer, while the Minute Secretary frames the following Resolution:—*

4. That the following be the appointment of the members of the Committee as Collectors: viz.

District No. 1. *G. H.* and *I. K.*
2. *L. M.* and *N. O.*

[*Proceeding in a similar manner with respect to all the districts of the Association.*]

5. That the following be the *By-Laws* of this Committee (*see Section* III.); and that the secretaries be authorised to get —— copies of the Rules and By-Laws printed as soon as possible, and send two copies to every member of the Committee, and ten copies to the Committee of the Auxiliary Society.

6. That the secretaries immediately furnish the secretary of each district with proper visiting and collecting books, * printed papers for circulation, and all other requisites; and that the collectors be requested to commence their visits on ——— next, the —— instant.

The Cash Secretary having reported that the sum of £.——— was received at the door at the close of the General Meeting, and that he had paid £.——— for incidental expenses attending the said Meeting;

RESOLVED,

7. That the balance of £.——— be paid over to the Treasurer.

8. That the Treasurer and Secretaries be requested to attend the next meeting of the Committee of the ——— Auxiliary [*or Branch*] Society, to present a copy of the Rules adopted at the General Meeting, and to request permission to lay out the funds in the purchase of Bibles and Testaments at their depository, in the manner prescribed by the 8th Rule.

On these Resolutions it is only necessary to remark, that the Secretaries should make their own arrangements, with regard to the division of their duties, previous to the meeting of the Committee. All business arising out of the Minutes should receive the immediate attention of those officers; but in this stage of the proceedings, more particularly, delay should be studiously avoided. The numerous advantages resulting from the attendance of the members of the Auxiliary Committee at the Monthly Committee Meetings of the Association, are too obvious to require particular notice:—the members of the District Committee should always receive an official invitation to those meetings, and the occasional company of their colleagues be likewise solicited.

The "Hints to Officers and Collectors," constituting Section I. of Chap. VIII. will be found to embrace a general view of their respective duties.

9. Having thus traced the rise and progress of a Bible Association to the conclusion of the First Meeting of the regular

* See Chap. VII. Section V.

Committee, it is not necessary to follow the subsequent proceedings of the Society. That which has been already detailed will afford every requisite information, and convince the friends of the cause, that the establishment of those institutions is attended with little difficulty, and that simplicity is the prominent feature in the plan. But it may not be improper to submit a few general hints illustrative of the system adopted, and the observance of which has been found conducive to success.

I. Where any doubt exists as to the actual dearth of the holy scriptures in a parish or district, it should be the duty of the Provisional Committee of the intended Association to appoint a Sub-Committee, to ascertain the fact by a personal investigation. This is the more necessary in those districts in which a parochial or private fund for the supply of Bibles exists, as the inadequacy of all such funds to supply the demand, forms a powerful argument at a General Meeting.

II. In the appointment of Secretaries, and in the selection of the Committee, attention should be paid to their religious professions. If eligible persons offer, it is adviseable that the Secretaries should be of different persuasion; and that one-half of the Committee should consist of members of the Established Church. Too much care cannot be taken to introduce into every branch of the society, that admirable regulation of the Parent Institution, which attracts the affections and secures the co-operation of every denomination of Christians.

III. Great advantage has resulted from engaging Foremen, Clerks, and Superintendants of manufactories and workshops, as members of the Committee; their influence and example, when properly directed, being found to operate powerfully on the subordinate workmen. Similar benefit has been derived from engaging the valuable services of a class of young men, who are never backward in promoting the great cause of religion and morality—the Teachers in Sunday Schools: their exertions in behalf of the Bible Society have been conspicuous; and the effect on the minds of the children has surpassed the most sanguine expectations.

IV. The importance of punctuality in collecting the subscriptions has been already adverted to. When the collectors call regularly *once a week*, the subscriptions are cheerfully paid; but if *they* neglect their duty, the poor are too frequently induced to apply their money to other purposes. The following little anecdote will illustrate this observation:—

In one of the Associations connected with the Southwark Auxiliary Society, an old Soldier had long been a cheerful free-contributor of a penny a week. The Collectors having omitted to call for three successive weeks, visited him at the beginning of the fourth,

and informed him that they believed he owed them four-pence: the old man smiled, and, pointing to a tea-cup on the chimney-piece, replied, "Gentlemen, you have been lazy, and I'll punish you for it:—in that tea-cup I laid by for you a penny a week for three weeks; but as you did not think proper to call for it, I spent it; and I'll now give you only a penny: this will make you more careful in future—the cause is too good to be neglected." It may not be improper to add, that this lesson from the old man was not lost on the Collectors.

SECTION V.

THE QUARTERLY CONFERENCE.

Proceeding with the detail of the system as adopted in Southwark, the next subject for consideration is that of the *Quarterly Conference;* an institution to which, humanly speaking, much of the success which has resulted may be ascribed. Many of the following remarks, in reference to this measure, and to the effects and influence of Bible Associations in that important and interesting district, may require an apology to those who have perused the Reports of the Southwark Society; but where the observations of the author have been confirmed by experience, he has not hesitated to express them in the same language which he originally adopted.

1. When the Southwark Associations had been established, it was perceived, that, although a constant and harmonious intercourse was kept up between the Auxiliary Society and *each* of those dependencies, something was yet required which should bring the *whole* into one collected point of view,—some centre of unity and concord, which should attract the various members of the family, and from which the rays might emanate, conveying heat and light to the boundaries of the system. This centre was happily found in the establishment of a regular *Quarterly Conference,* comprising the members of the Auxiliary Committee, and deputations, consisting of eight, ten, or twelve members, from the Committee of each Association (in which the respective officers are included), but at which the other members of the different Committees have the privilege of attending as visitors.

2. The following are the REGULATIONS of the Quarterly Conference, with such improvements as appear expedient:—

I. That *A. B.* be requested to officiate as secretary.

II. This Conferenceshall consist of the president, vice-presidents, treasurer, secretaries, and Committee of the Auxiliary Bible Society; the presi-

Regulations of the Quarterly Conference.

dents, vice-presidents, treasurers, and secretaries of the respective Associations connected with the said Auxiliary; and a deputation from each of their Committees: the names of the members deputed to be transmitted to the secretary, at least four days previous to each Conference.

III. This Conference shall be held on the evening of the first Thursday in January, April, July, and October, at six o'clock precisely.

IV. The order of proceeding shall be :—

1. To elect a chairman.
2. To call over the names of the members.
3. To read, and confirm or correct, the Minutes of the preceding Conference, and dispose of any business arising therefrom.
4. To call on the secretaries of the Auxiliary Committee for such information as they may deem necessary and interesting.
5. To receive the reports from the Associations in their order of establishment.
6. To receive and consider new propositions.

V. The report from each Association shall not exceed the limits of a folio sheet, prepared for that purpose, and supplied by the Secretary ;*—and shall specify—

1. Total amount of moneys received since the establishment.
2. Amount received since the last Conference.
3. Total amount paid to the Auxiliary since the establishment.
4. Amount paid to the Auxiliary since the last Conference.
5. Total number of Bibles and Testaments delivered at cost-prices.
6. Total number of Bibles and Testaments delivered under cost-prices.
7. Total number of Bibles and Testaments gratuitously distributed.
8. Total number of subscribers for Bibles and Testaments.
9. Total number of free contributors.
10. Increase or decrease of subscribers in the last quarter.
11. The number of individuals on the Committee, and the average number of those who have attended during the last quarter.
12. A statement of any interesting facts and observations, including the result of inquiries among the pawnbrokers.

VI. No report shall be received, unless it has been previously adopted at a regular committee meeting of the Association: and in case any Association shall omit to present a report, the secretary shall remind them, by letter, of such omission.

VII. All resolutions relating exclusively to the internal government of the Conference shall be binding : but those which regard the proceedings of the Associations shall be sent to the Committee of each, simply as a recommendation, having been first entered on the Minutes.

VIII. Any person making a proposition shall put it in writing, and hand it to the secretary.

IX. No person shall be permitted to speak more than once on the same question, unless in explanation.

X. In order to defray the incidental expenses of this Conference, each Association shall from time to time remit such sums as shall be required to the secretary, who shall submit an account of his receipts and disbursements annually at the January Conference. But no sum exceeding five pounds shall be voted by the Conference at one time, without the written consent of each Association having been previously obtained.

* See Specimen, Fourth Division of this Section.

Observations on the preceding Regulations.

XI. The several Associations are recommended to hold their Annual Meetings, in succession, on the second Monday in every month, and in the following order:—

West Lane.....January.	St. Olave.....July.
Lambeth, *South*.....February.	Lambeth, *North*.....August.
St. George.....March.	Christchurch.....September.
Newington.....April.	St. Saviour & St. Thomas...October.
Rotherhithe, *Lower*.....May.	Surrey Chapel.....November.
St. John and Bermondsey...June.	Rotherhithe, *Upper*.....December.

XII. The Minute Secretary of each Association is requested to transmit a few hand-bills announcing their Annual Meeting, to the secretaries of all the other Associations, at least a fortnight previous to such meeting.

XIII. No new regulation shall be adopted, nor any existing one repealed or altered, without having been proposed at the preceding Conference, and a copy of such addition or alteration sent to the Committee of each Association.

XIV. This Conference, conceiving that much advantage may arise from the mutual interchange of visits by the Metropolitan Auxiliary and Association Committees, hereby cordially invite them to attend the regular sittings of this Conference. And the Committees of the respective Auxiliary Societies are requested to send a copy of this Resolution to their several Associations.

Observations *on the preceding* Regulations.

I. The Secretary of the Conference is generally an individual who fills the same office in one of the Associations: he should be intimately acquainted with the business, and, if possible, with the local circumstances of all the connected societies. His duties, as Secretary of the Conference, are—

1. To send regular notice of the Conference to every member, at least three days previously.
2. To conduct the proceedings according to the prescribed order.
3. To send copies of any Resolutions to those whom they respectively concern.
4. To keep a regular account of his receipts and payments.
5. To take home and file the Reports, and have those of the respective years bound in separate volumes.

II. The Chairman has been generally chosen from among the secretaries or members of the Auxiliary Committee. He ought to be a gentleman well acquainted with the mode of conducting a public meeting, and with the general object and detail of the Bible Society. After the reports have been read, he should advert to any peculiar circumstances arising from them,—briefly communicate the latest and most interesting information relative to the Parent Institution,—and then ask the secretaries of the Auxiliary Society, and of the several Associations, in order, whether they have any new proposition to submit or observation to make. The business being

concluded, the Chairman announces those general or anniversary meetings which occur in the ensuing quarter, and adjourns the Conference.

III. In reference to the VIIth Regulation, it may not be improper to observe, that while it is optional with the Committee of every Association to adopt these recommendations, they should always be received and considered with the greatest attention; and, if rejected, the grounds of such rejection should be fully and respectfully reported to the ensuing Conference.

IV. Many advantages have arisen from the arrangement specified in the XIth Regulation. The precise time for holding every meeting being generally known, those gentlemen who are in the habit of attending them form their engagements accordingly; and the unabated interest that has been maintained for more than eight years, furnishes the best evidence of the propriety of this plan. Were the anniversary meetings of Bible Societies, throughout the whole kingdom, similarly and definitively fixed, results equally beneficial might be confidently anticipated.

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3. The institution of a Quarterly Conference in Southwark has been attended with the most happy effects. It has not only produced that mutual knowledge and affection which should characterize a band of brothers, but it has tended to infuse a full and correct knowledge of the object in view; the design is comprehended and appreciated; and that cordial co-operation which results from decided conviction and conscientious approval is firmly secured.—Before the establishment of this Periodical Conference, the Committee of the Southwark Auxiliary Society had reason to believe the effects of their labours were beneficial; but they little expected, that, within so short a period, there could have been collected a mass of evidence so strong as to carry conviction to every unprejudiced mind. The records of the Quarterly Conference exhibit a conclusive proof that *every objection* hitherto urged against the Bible Society is founded on assumptions that do not exist; and that *none* of the anticipated evils have resulted from the greatest possible extension of the system.

The advantages attending this regular interchange of sentiment, have been more fully developed in each successive year. To the Conference, as to a centre, the wants, the knowledge, the zeal, and the inquiries of the Associations are

directed; and, from it, the members return to their various allotments, cheered, delighted, and instructed. On these interesting occasions, every new measure which has been attended with beneficial effects in any one Association, is communicated and explained for the benefit of the whole; those little difficulties which will occasionally occur, even in the best arranged system, are prudently but effectually removed; and a spirit of friendly concert and co-operation is cherished and extended.

In order to render the example of Southwark still more attractive, by the detail of beneficial and practical results, a SHEET OF FACTS, extracted from the records of the Quarterly Conference, was published in the beginning of the year 1816, which has been extensively circulated throughout the kingdom, and may now be considered as one of the stock-papers for Bible Associations. The anecdotes in the following specimen are derived from the same source: and while they confirm the zeal of those who have already stepped forward in support of this great design, they may induce others to consider whether *they*, also, cannot assist in its extension. The Bible Society is, indeed, established on that firm ground which *argument* can never shake, and which reason and revelation support; but it is by the evidence of *facts* that it will be judged, and by its results that it will be appreciated. BIBLE ASSOCIATIONS may be termed the Fruit-bearing Branches of the Parent Tree—to these, then, it becomes us to look with hope and confidence. That authority will not be questioned, by which it has been declared, that by its fruit we shall know the true nature of every plant; nor will the Christian be induced to believe that the grapes and the figs which he beholds are the produce of the thorn and the thistle. The author will esteem his labours amply repaid, if only *one* individual shall be thereby incited to virtuous activity and persevering exertion. He is abundantly convinced, that the attention of the public will be more and more awakened to this subject; that the system will become *universal;* and that every friend to his country and to mankind may rejoice in the anticipation of that day, when every village, town, and parish of our land shall exhibit its BIBLE ASSOCIATION.

The returns under the printed heads in the following specimen are those of the St. George's Bible Association, but the facts and observations are selected indiscriminately from the Conference Records. It is to be observed, that the returns under the 5th and 6th heads are given jointly, instead

Specimen of a Report to the Quarterly Conference.

of being entered separately, owing to some little inaccuracy in keeping the accounts.

REPORT

of the *St. George's*——— BIBLE ASSOCIATION

TO THE QUARTERLY CONFERENCE:

Presented 4th of April, 1821.

	£.	s.	d.
1. Total amount of money received since the establishment . .	2000.	14.	9
2. Amount received since last Conference	41.	2.	10
3. Total amount paid to the Auxiliary since the establishment .	1775.	14.	4
4. Amount paid to the Auxiliary since last Conference . .	28.	14.	5

	B.	T.
5. Total number of Bibles and Tests. delivered at cost-prices	2568	505
6. Ditto Ditto under cost-prices . .		
7. Ditto Ditto gratuitously distributed	60	27

8. Total number of subscribers for Bibles and Testaments not yet supplied	181
9. Total number of free contributors now on the books . .	395
10. Increase or decrease of subscribers in the last quarter . .	8 less
11. The number of individuals on the Committee . . .	30
12. The average number of the Committee who have attended in the last quarter	20

FACTS & OBSERVATIONS.

Eight years have now elapsed since the establishment of this Association: many have been the changes, both in public and private life, that have characterized this period; but, through the blessing of the MOST HIGH, no change has taken place in our love for the cause we have espoused, nor any abatement of interest been experienced in our ardent desires for its success. Nor is this a matter of surprise: whatever is of earthly origin, partakes of an earthly nature; it flourishes for its appointed hour, and is gone! But that which is of Heavenly birth, is of an immortal nature; and those affections which are attracted by it, are of an eternal duration: "*The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the Word of our* GOD *shall stand for ever.*" Were it not for those frequent changes of residence to which the poor, especially in the metropolis, are subjected from a variety of causes, we should say that the circulation of 3000 copies of the holy scriptures in our parish had almost supplied the *home* demand. But the distribution of nearly 200 copies during the last twelve months affords sufficient evidence, that even for the attainment of this, its primary object, a Bible Association must be a *permanent* Institution. It is, however, on other and more extensive grounds that we rest our principal claims to continued and even increased support. *If* the Bible be a Revelation from GOD, and *if* it be addressed to all mankind, it becomes the bounden duty of Christians to assist in its universal dissemination. Let us then cast our eyes over the map of the world, and estimate the condition of its inhabitants by contrasting it with our own. What deep and extensive shades do we behold!—of how many wide-spread regions

Reformation of an abandoned Female in Southwark :—

may it yet be said, that "*darkness still covers the earth, and gross darkness the people!*" Surely then, if we rightly appreciate our own blessings, the sacred flame of charity will pervade our hearts, and be not only a living but an *active* principle. We have had much to encourage us; and now that prejudice has yielded to conviction, and hostility is disarmed by the mild and steady progress of truth, let us be watchful, lest, having no enemy to contend with from without, a spirit of apathy and indifference should grow up within. Against *this* spirit it is that we would guard ourselves and caution our brethren.—Can the Christian be cold, when the *Bible* is the object? Can he be supine, when the temporal and eternal welfare of mankind is the point in view? We are justified, by the authority of HIM who is emphatically denominated 'THE TRUTH,' in saying, that he cannot; and that he is called upon by the profession he makes, by the hopes he cherishes, and by the SAVIOUR who died for him, to consider *every human being who requires his aid* as his neighbour and his brother.

Under these considerations, and contemplating our connexion with the British and Foreign Bible Society, through the medium of the Southwark Auxiliary Society, we feel, in an increasing degree, the duty that devolves on us, of sending forth to the unenlightened nations of the earth that sacred volume which "*brings life and immortality to light.*" Often have we identified ourselves with the Parent Institution; and we love to cherish the idea; to feel actuated by the *same* principle; animated with the *same* hopes; and having our views directed to the *same* beneficent purpose—the promotion of the divine glory, and the eternal welfare of the human race.

In reference to the co-operation of our Committee in this great design, it seems appropriate to state, that a spirit of uninterrupted love, unity, and concord pervades our meetings; and that those meetings have been recently better attended, the average number present during the last quarter being twenty. It is also gratifying to report, that, in a partial re-canvas of three districts, eighty-six new subscribers have been obtained, among whom are a young man and his wife of the Jewish persuasion, who both appeared glad of the opportunity of freely contributing to the cause. And we would also further remark, that in part of another district we have no less than thirty free-subscribers among a class of persons who, we fear, are frequently overlooked;—we mean, the shopmen and clerks of our different tradesmen.

Pursuant to a resolution of the last Conference, a strict inquiry has been made of all the pawnbrokers residing in this parish, relative to the number of Bibles and Testaments pledged. The result, we rejoice to say, has been honourable to this class of tradesmen as well as to the poor, as we did not find a single copy in the hands of any broker. Having alluded to that interesting people, the Jews, it may be proper to observe, that we have recently perceived an increasing and gratifying desire on the part of many of them to possess copies of the Hebrew New Testament. This may be considered as one of the collateral advantages of Bible Associations; as the desire has evidently been excited by the visits of the Collectors to these poor and hitherto neglected people.

Since our last report, we have been privileged to behold some more of that fruit which is promised to those who go forth "*bearing precious seed;*" and we select the following specimens for the table around which our brethren are now assembled.—In one of our districts, so proverbially profligate as to have acquired the name of the "forlorn hope," the Collectors called at a house of the worst description:—on making their errand known, a young woman about twenty-two years of age replied, "It is not fit for a person like me to have a Bible—I am wicked enough!" She seemed to think that the possession of a Bible would increase her responsibility, and consequently her guilt and future misery. They had much conversation with her: and

and her admittance into a Penitentiary.—Reformation of a Drunkard.

although they found, in the following week, that she had removed to another street in the same district, she made it a point of meeting them, told them she was extremely desirous of leaving her way of life, and earnestly begged for a Testament. This was cheerfully voted by our Committee: and the Collectors in the following month report—"The young woman spoken of in our last report, on our next collecting-day, presented herself to us before we reached her abode: she was evidently looking for us; her demeanour was humble, and her looks expressive of great anxiety and contrition. We shall long remember her expressions of gratitude on receiving the New Testament voted to her: clasping it in her hands, she exclaimed, 'Never, no, never, under any circumstances, will I part with it.' From all that we beheld, we do cherish the pleasing hope that it has been said to her, '*Go and sin no more.*' On the transfer of this scene of iniquity and woe to the Ladies' Committee, this young woman was visited by their Collectors: her anxiety to be removed from her wretched course of living induced the prompt exertions of those benevolent Ladies; and, on proper investigation, she was judged the most suitable object among many for immediate admission into that House of Mercy, the *London Female Penitentiary.* From the last report of the Ladies' Committee we extract the following passage, relative to this poor penitent:—'Since her admission into the house, she has conducted herself with uniform propriety, and there is every reason to believe that her repentance is deep and sincere. Her expressions of gratitude, when speaking of those who were the means of snatching her as '*a brand from the burning,*' were truly affecting: and she has often said, 'I hope the instructions I have received will be blessed, to the saving of my soul from eternal destruction: there is no suffering that I would not gladly be exposed to, rather than return to a life of sin.' Frequently, with tears of sorrow, she expresses herself anxious to find that mercy which is only to be obtained by faith in Jesus Christ."—Gratifying and encouraging as this fact has been to us, we have reason to anticipate still farther blessings. A neighbour of this poor penitent, having heard what was become of her companion in guilt, accosted our Collectors, expressing a strong desire to quit her way of life also. She was referred to the advice and counsel of the Ladies before mentioned; and we humbly hope that the day which has dawned upon the heart of her friend may likewise be the harbinger of peace and mercy to her.

After detailing this interesting anecdote, the Collectors add—"We feel particularly encouraged to the punctual observance of the day and hour for collecting; for these two unfortunate females had noticed our regularity:—three times the one, and twice the other, met us at the accustomed hour as we passed toward their abodes: in waiting, they were not disappointed: and, we humbly trust, we may say that we have found our reward.

We felt much pleasure at an interview we had with a medical gentleman, who readily came forward as a contributor of a guinea per annum; adding, that he thought Bible Associations had wrought much good as it related to the improvement of the lower orders; and that he was pleased when he saw a Bible in the rooms of his poor patients, believing it had made many, whom he had known years before to be dirty and dishonest, cleanly in their dwellings and punctual in their payments.

In another district, a working man had been repeatedly called on, and invited to subscribe for a Bible, but without success. His habitual drunkenness exhausted those means that should have been appropriated to the support and comfort of his family, and his habitation bore evidents marks of the tendency of these habits of intemperance. The Collectors persevered in their visits of mercy; and at length he was induced to become a subscriber

for a Bible, which he received some months ago. The perusal of it has, under the divine blessing, produced a total change in his conduct: his habits of inebriety are entirely reliquished, and his family become comfortable and happy. This fact will appear the more striking, when we add, that his former dissolute companions repeatedly endeavoured to persuade him to desist from subscribing, and have since urgently invited him to join in their excesses; but in vain. His reply to their temptations is—"Formerly I was always poor, and in debt; but now I am comfortable, and can lay by three shillings a week."

A female servant, who had been a subscriber of 1*s.* 1*d.* per quarter from the commencement of the Association, being lately called on for her subscription, put a double sum into the hands of the Collector, who asked her the reason of it; when she answered cheerfully, that as she found comfort and consolation to her own mind in reading the Scriptures, she was glad it was in her power to add to her contributions, for the benefit of others.

The following contingent benefit of Bible Associations we cannot pass unnoticed, although perhaps not strictly within our province. A free contributor, residing in our eleventh district, was in the constant habit of opening shop on the sabbath-days. The Collectors ventured to allude to the immorality and inconsistency of this practice, especially in one who supported the Bible Society. Some time afterward they visited the shop, and were accosted in the following words—"We have given up serving on Sundays—we had long thought it not right, and we have now made up our minds never to serve again on that day: our customers came into our way very well; we take as much as ever, and we were never so happy in our lives." In a conspicuous part of their shop they have pasted up, in large letters, "No serving on Sundays."

In a former report we had occasion to notice the liberality of a Jew in procuring a Bible for a Christian lad in his employ; and, as whatever discovers a diminished prejudice in that interesting people is pleasing to record, we beg leave to introduce the following particulars:—After delivering the sacred volume to the youth, we asked his master to allow him time for its perusal: he replied, "As I never suffer him to work on *my* sabbath, so I never permit him to work on *his own*: he will therefore have two days in a week to himself. I also require him to attend divine service on his own sabbath, for I wish every one to worship God according to the dictates of his conscience."

The limits judiciously prescribed for these Reports, preclude our entering into further details. In conclusion, we congratulate you and the religious population of Southwark, on the immense circulation of the Bible among our labouring poor, which we hesitate not to affirm has produced the best effects, in promoting that good order and peaceful demeanour which is witnessed in this populous district, where so many have been, and are, in want of the common necessaries of life. This is one of the benefits arising from the dissemination and perusal of that sacred volume, which is calculated to teach all classes submission amidst the most trying dispensations of Divine Providence, and dependence in the hour of need, by inducing the sufferer to view all as coming from His hand "*who ordereth all things well.*"

SECTION VI.

GENERAL REMARKS.

As no district in Great Britain has exhibited a more gratifying illustration of the system, in the moral effects produced,

than that wherein it was originally adopted; the author feels himself justified in extracting, from the reports of the Southwark Society, his former observations in reference to this subject. The facts by which they are supported have lost none of their importance; and the correctness of the views originally taken by the exemplary Committee of that Institution, has been abundantly confirmed by subsequent and more extensive experience.

1. Firm and erect on the rock of Truth, the British and Foreign Bible Society neither dreads nor courts opposition: when her motive and design have been assailed by argument, she has found her defenders, and their triumph is attested by her success; but when the object and results of her Auxiliary and subordinate Societies are called in question, it becomes the duty of those entrusted with their management to step forward to correct misrepresentation and to check the progress of error. Far be it from your Committee to ascribe improper motives to any individual; that perfect liberty of sentiment which they claim for you and for themselves, they most cheerfully concede to others; but they would ask, Whether those hypotheses and consequences, started and deduced by a few individuals avowedly *hostile* to the Bible Society, and practically *ignorant* of its operations, should weigh in any unprejudiced mind against the simple and single object of that society, and the *actual* effects of its establishment—an *object* confined as it is exclusively to the universal diffusion of the holy scriptures without note or comment; and *effects* proved to be beneficial, and in no respect injurious, by the intimate personal observation and concurrent testimony of more than 650 disinterested individuals in your district alone? They would respectfully submit, that, when the calculations of theory have been thus refuted by the results of experience, it is the province of wisdom not only to withdraw from the side of imagination, but to join the ranks of Truth.

2. It has been more than insinuated, that there is a concealed design in the members of the Bible Society to subvert the established religion of the land: now, without entering the lists of disputation to prove the absurdity of this groundless supposition, it may be fairly assumed, that were it *possible* for such an intention to exist, some indication of its existence would be apparent in Southwark, and that the ramifications of this dangerous conspiracy would be traced through the open and unguarded barriers of your Bible Associations. But what is the *fact?* Let the clergymen of your district be asked the question—they will tell you that their churches have been *better* filled, and *more* regularly attended, since your establishment—that their congregations not only progressively *increase* in numbers, but improve in habits of decorum and propriety of conduct—and that, amongst them, there are many individuals who have been awakened to a sense of their religious duties, through their con-

nexion with your Bible Associations. From amongst numerous anecdotes illustrative of this fact, your Committee select the following:—A tradesman in the parish of Rotherhithe had been frequently solicited to join the Association, but had declined, having, as he expressed it, "nothing to do with the Bible;" and truly his practice corresponded with his sentiment, as he lived in utter violation of the sabbath, never attending religious worship, and keeping his shop constantly open on that day. After many months, he was induced by the example of his neighbours to become a free-contributor; and on being asked by the collectors whether he had a Bible, he replied that he had, and that he should *now* look into it and see what it was about: he kept his promise, and the effect has been such as might be expected; his shop is *now* closed on the sabbath-day, his conduct and manners have undergone a total change, and he is constant and regular in his attendance on divine worship at his parish church. Surely every ingenuous mind must acknowledge, that the dangerous tendency of societies producing effects like these, is purely imaginary; and that the only unpleasant consequence to be apprehended from their universal establishment, is, that *every place* opened for Christian worship will be found insufficient to accommodate those who are desirous to attend.

3. An opinion having been expressed, that the union of persons of different religious persuasions would not only impede the progress of this work of mercy, but lead to strife and contention, it is observed:—Several years having now elapsed since the formation of your society, ample opportunity has been afforded for forming a just estimate of those means which have contributed to its success; and your Committee would not do justice to their feelings, did they not record, as one of the most prominent of those means, that spirit of harmony and love which has constantly governed their proceedings. Nor has this cementing power been confined to their own members;—like the precious oil poured on the head of Aaron, and which fell even to the skirts of his garment, it has descended to your children, and its sweet and balmy influence has been equally perceptible in the several Committees of your Twelve Associations; evincing its presence by that affectionate forbearance, that mutual concession, and that cordiality of co-operation, which so well become the singleness and purity of the object, and the character of its professed advocates. Your Committee cannot contemplate a scene like that which is continually before them, without asking whether this happy union of more than 650 individuals, comprising members of every denomination of professing Christians, annually formed, renewed, and preserved, could *possibly* exist, were the object in view unworthy of decided and unqualified support? On the broad and firm basis of THE BIBLE, they meet and they unite—they erect no separate tabernacles, but they preserve inviolate their individual partialities—they regret that they have been so long divided, but they rejoice in the discovery of that common centre where they can conscien-

tiously and cordially meet, and where the love which they bear one another is but an evidence of that affection wherein they embrace the universal family of man.

4. It has been asserted, that the labouring classes of society cannot comprehend the Bible alone. It is at all times painful to contradict a positive assertion; but your Committee would be guilty of a dereliction of their duty, did they not unequivocally declare, that they have had ample proof that the poor *do* comprehend the sacred writings, so far at least as to experience, in numerous instances, a happy change wrought in their lives and conversation by the perusal. How far the individuals who compose the great mass of society may view every text and passage in precisely the *same* light, it is not for your Committee to judge; nor, perhaps, would it be reasonable to expect it, until their more enlightened brethren exhibit this clearness of vision and unity of comprehension. You have already received the most satisfactory evidence, that the Bibles hitherto distributed by you have produced a great and beneficial effect; but if there be any one who is desirous of placing the "Book of Common Prayer," or any other "Illustration" of the Sacred Text, in the habitations of the poor, the way is plain and open; and he may conscientiously satisfy his benevolent intention, either personally as an individual, or through the medium of those excellent institutions formed for this special purpose. *Your* object is the circulation of the volume of inspiration *alone*:—here, there can be no doubt, no diversity of opinion, no obstacle to cordial and entire union: this is the ground of our common *Faith*, the source of our common *Hope*, the pledge of our common *Charity:* it is the sacred charter of our dearest privileges: it is equally addressed to all: it is the common property of created man; and he who withholds it from any portion of the universal family, deprives them of a right which they derive from GOD.

5. Some opponents of the Bible Society, who formerly denied both the inclination and ability of the labouring classes to co-operate in promoting its design, have now changed sides, and affect to trace, in the astonishing growth and success of Bible Associations, a desire to "oppress the poor." If such objectors be actuated by the spirit of Christian candour, they will behold satisfactory proofs of this ability and inclination, in the aggregate amount contributed; in the decided preference given to the *highest-priced* bibles; and in the lists of subscribers, which comprise a body exceeding 21,000 persons within the sphere of your society. And the same candid feeling will intimate, that it is a *voluntary* co-operation on the part of their less affluent neighbours, who experience, in this new exercise of benevolence, a pure delight to which they had previously been strangers; while many of them acknowledge that they have thus acquired habits of domestic order, sobriety, and economy, highly conducive to their temporal welfare. Among the many practical illustrations of these remarks, which have fallen under the observation of your Committee, there is one so peculiarly applicable to this sub-

ject, that they deem it worthy of particular notice.—A publican, who had been repeatedly, but vainly solicited to subscribe, at length addressed the collectors in these words: "Gentlemen, I have often told you that you would spoil my trade; and now I find I was right; for I do not sell near so much liquor as I formerly did; and instead of spending their Sunday evenings at my house, drinking and smoking, my customers stay at home poring over your Bibles." The collectors asked him whether he did not believe that his customers got *all they wanted* from his house, and whether *they did not now pay for all they got.* After a pause, he replied, "Yes, Gentlemen—I see it is a good thing:" and he has since become a member of the society.

6. Much has been said relative to the supposed danger of convening together the labouring classes; and much ingenuity has been wasted in the supposed discovery of manifold evils which *were* to follow those general meetings of Bible Associations. Your Committee would again answer by *Facts.* In no part of Great Britain has the experiment been so long, so fully, and so frequently tried as in Southwark; and you know the result: not only have those dangers been proved to be altogether visionary, but the most prominent advantages have been of a nature diametrically opposite: instead of "disorder and confusion," the greatest regularity and decorum characterize those annual assemblies; instead of "ignorant enthusiasts," we see rational and quiet auditors; instead of fanatics, we behold sober-minded Christians. If our opponents would only favour us with their company on these interesting occasions, they would speedily find that their views of the subject are merely imaginary, and that the advantages of those general meetings are equally numerous and striking.

7. Some worthy individuals have expressed a fear, that the temporal necessities of the poor may be neglected in the universal desire to administer to their spiritual wants: and others have been apprehensive lest the numerous charitable institutions of our land should suffer, by having the stream of public bounty directed into a new channel. Your Committee rejoice that they are enabled to remove those fears, and that your district affords a perfect illustration of the train of argument adopted in a late admired and valuable publication*:—the funds of other institutions are not only unimpaired, but materially augmented, and the temporal wants of the poor are relieved beyond all former precedent.

8. Nor should it be forgotten, that there is indisputable evidence, that to the influence of Bible Associations we may confidently look for that ultimate amelioration of the state of the labouring classes of society, which has long been rather the desire than the expectation of every true friend to his country. While the gradual increase of

* Dr. Chalmers on "the Influence of Bible Societies on the temporal necessities of the Poor."

pauperism has afforded a subject for deep and serious concern, it is consoling to reflect, that something comparable to a *moral sinking-fund* has been thus established, which operates powerfully towards the liquidation of this heavy and deplorable incumbrance, and the effect of which may be already traced in the improved aspect of numerous families within your district.

9. But let it always be remembered, that an object infinitely higher, and effects incomparably more valuable, are involved in these considerations. To place the sacred volume in every cottage of our land, and, by interesting its inhabitants in the nature and design of a Bible Association, to "raise a defence against the extension of pauperism," is a great and happy result. But will the effects terminate here? We have the most conclusive evidence that they will not: the fountain of charity is opened; the stone has been rolled away from the well's mouth, and the waters, long restrained, now burst forth and flow in every direction. No one is such an enthusiast as to suppose that a moral change has been wrought in *every* mind; or that *every* habitation into which the Bible has been introduced, has resounded to the song of gratitude and praise: the LIP *of* TRUTH itself has declared, that all would not receive the seed of the kingdom; and those who are privileged to dispense this inestimable blessing are sensible, that when, like "*the sower*," they have gone forth to sow, some has "*fallen by the way side*," some "*on stony ground*," and some "*among thorns;*" but they gratefully feel and know that much has "*fallen upon good ground*," and that the fruit is rapidly maturing. The poor already begin to feel that they live not for themselves alone; that *they* can assist in throwing open the portals of benevolence; and that, while they receive the greater share of benefit themselves, they may dispense blessings to the universe. It has been well observed by the enlightened author to whom reference has just been made, "that it is not so easy to awaken the benevolent principle out of its sleep, as, when once awakened in behalf of one object, to excite and interest it in behalf of another." And never has this truth been so strikingly exemplified, as by the results of Bible Associations. The heart that appeared cold even to its own immediate claims, has awakened at the unwonted voice of kindness to a sense of relative and social duties: no longer rendered torpid by the persuasion that its happiness or misery was alike the subject of indifference to all around, it shakes off the benumbing influence, and rejoices in the light of the Sun of Righteousness, whose beams not only irradiate its path, but animate its hopes. The low pursuits

that had so long degraded and enslaved, assume their proper aspect; and as they diminish in the estimate, the value and the beauty of industry, morality, and religion, are beheld and appreciated; the claims of duty are recognised; and, as these are discharged, the generous principle expands. He who recently believed that no one felt for him, now feels for all mankind: he to whom the Bible was an object of total unconcern, now glows with an ardent desire that *all* may be partakers of the blessings it offers and imparts: he may, indeed, be one of "*the poor of this world*," but, "*rich in faith*," his charity extends, his capacity enlarges; he has tasted the "luxury of doing good;" and his existence has derived new charms from the exercise of Christian benevolence: wherever man exists, he hails a brother—wherever misery is found, he pants to be a friend.

"If we would fully appreciate the glorious exercise of charity, to which the Bible Society invites us," says a distinguished advocate of the cause,* "we should consider ourselves not merely as Englishmen, but as members of the whole family of man. The miserable savage, who wanders in the desert of the forest, untutored and unsubdued, is still a brother of our own, created like ourselves in the image of GOD, and like us an heir of immortality. For near six thousand years, the groans of nature have been heard in every land: but sages and prophets have consoled us with the assurance, that these times shall have an end; that a new order of things shall arise, and that the blessings of the Gospel shall, ere long, call forth from all nations the sacred and lofty measures of adoration and praise. Even now, I seem to myself to behold the dawning of that brighter day: even now, by the favour of Providence upon the labours of Englishmen, and especially by means of the Bible Society, the glad tidings of the Gospel are heard in the most distant regions. Translations of the Scriptures are proceeding to an extent beyond all example; and if the society continue to act according to the promise of its present exertions, the Gospel will soon have been preached not in this island only, or where its institutions and language are known, but 'unto all that dwell on the earth, to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people.' Wherever the footsteps of civilization can be traced, there will men read, in their own tongue, the wonderful works of GOD. In the contemplation of these things, I am struck with a degree of admiration and astonishment which I cannot express. I would venture to borrow the words of that sacred book which it is the object of this meeting to dispense to all men, and inquire, 'Who hath heard such a thing? Who hath seen such things?' 'Ask now of the days that are past since the day that GOD created man upon the earth, and ask from the one side of heaven unto the other, whether there hath been any such thing as this great thing is, or hath been heard like it?' Except the day of Pentecost, I know of nothing to compare with it. The temple of Truth has been founded and built up in Britain; but the light is streaming through every outlet to all the regions of the world. It has penetrated the hut of the shivering native of Labrador: it has cheered the dwelling of the poor Hindoo. The glory of the LORD is visiting his Church; from every quarter the gentiles are coming to her

* Rev. W. Dealtry, Rector of Clapham.

light, and kings to the brightness of her rising. The consoling declarations of the prophets appear, even in these days of conflict, to be fast approaching their completion; the brightest visions of our poets seem on the point of being realised, when,

> 'One song employs all nations, and all cry,
> Worthy the LAMB, for He was slain for us!
> The dwellers in the vales and on the rocks
> Shout to each other, and the mountain tops
> From distant mountains catch the flying joy,
> Till, nation after nation taught the strain,
> Earth rolls the rapturous Hosanna round.'

"As sure as the voice of prophecy has foretold them, these glorious times will arrive; and we in our generation are called to the distinguished honour of acting as instruments in the Divine Hand to hasten their approach. We are invited to the privilege of humbly combining our efforts 'as workers together with GOD.' Let us then work, while it is day; the night cometh, when no man can work: the opportunity is now in our hands: we soon shall go hence, and be no more seen."

10. This chapter cannot be more appropriately closed, than in the language of the Committee of the Parent Society, in their Twelfth and Thirteenth Annual Reports:—

"Your Committee think it unnecessary to repeat what has been said on former occasions respecting Bible Associations, farther than to certify, that their experience has again confirmed all that has been asserted in their favour in former reports. They acknowledge, with gratitude, the great efficiency which the Parent Institution has derived from their assistance, while they contemplate with admiration and delight the moral effects which have resulted from them, in the encouragement of religious habits, and in the increase of kind affections and brotherly love: and they are persuaded, that nothing is better calculated to extend the influence of the holy scriptures, to excite a personal interest in the knowledge of revealed truth, and (what is the natural consequence of such knowledge) an anxious desire to make others partakers of it, than these most laudable and efficacious Associations..... The very principle of those Associations is calculated to operate as a monitory and restraining influence on the members of them. They see and feel the inconsistency of a life devoted to licentious indulgences and immoral habits, with the open and reiterated profession of a veneration for that Book which so forcibly and explicitly condemns them; while their regulated orderly meetings, and their monthly and weekly contributions, for promoting the circulation of it, tend to invigorate those feelings, and render them habitual. And when this influence is considered as extending (as, from the active participation of females, and the young, in this service of love, it will naturally do) to the families of the members of these Associations, the consideration opens a new source of exhilarating hope, with respect to the rising and future generations."

CHAP. IV.

ASSOCIATIONS OF MECHANICS.

"TO SET FORWARD THE WORKMEN IN THE HOUSE OF GOD."
EZRA, III. 9.

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS.

It is impossible to enter on this part of the system, without mingled emotions of pleasure and regret. To behold those useful and intelligent men, from whose industry and skill so much of the wealth and comforts of our country are derived, associating for *such* a purpose, affords the most lively satisfaction; while we cannot but feel desirous, that the example so nobly set by a few, had been followed by the many. The subject is one of peculiar importance; and were it only taken up with that interest, which it merits, by those who conduct and superintend our manufactories, the most happy results might be anticipated. It was the observation of a celebrated statesman, "When the bad combine, the good must associate;"—and if the same industry were manifested by the latter in circulating moral and religious information, which characterizes the former in distributing publications of the most pernicious tendency, there is every reason to believe that the consequences would have surpassed the most sanguine expectations. Instead of Combinations for *bad* purposes, we should behold Associations for the *best:* instead of lamenting over the progress of infidelity and disloyalty, we should witness the extension of scripture principles, and rejoice in their blessed effects;—for those who had learned to "*fear God,*" would also "*honour the King:*" instead of indulging improvident and profligate habits, our Mechanics would more generally feel the value of character and the blessings of independence. If those who possess the means of giving a right direction to the minds of their workmen, would only make trial of the experiment now recommended, the seeds of good order, subordination, and virtue would be scattered throughout the land; and we might safely leave the

increase to HIM, who hath said, "*My word shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.*"

SECTION I.

ORIGIN AND PROGRESS OF MECHANICS' ASSOCIATIONS.

1. The first Bible Association of Mechanics, of which any account can be procured, was that of the workmen employed by Messrs. Storr and Co.* in Dean Street, Soho, London, in the year 1812. As this was not only the model on which every existing institution of a similar kind has been formed, but that which furnished the incitement to kindred exertion, no apology will be requisite for introducing their own Report of the origin and progress of this interesting society.

REPORT *of the* DEAN-STREET ASSOCIATION OF MECHANICS, *presented at the Conference of the Westminster Auxiliary Bible Society and Associations: January* 10, 1815.

WITH regard to the *origin* of a Bible Association among us, this, under GOD, is to be attributed to the introduction of the Report of the British and Foreign Bible Society for the year 1812. It was the first report that any of us had seen; it was handed about from one to another, and read with great interest. The effect was, that four of us became subscribers to that society, each of a guinea a-year, which subscriptions have still continued to be paid. Not only so, but we became advocates for the institution: and as the idea of an Association had not then been formed, we solicited donations from our friends; and we had the pleasure of procuring, under the head of donations, the sum of six pounds sixteen shillings, which we paid, part to the Parent Society, and the rest to the Westminster Auxiliary Bible Society.

Our next step was, to try if a small Association could be formed among the men. In order to make the subject understood, we procured from the depository several of the "Brief Views of the Proceedings of the Society," which were put into the hands of the men; and rules were drawn up, containing the project of an Association: to which the following article was prefixed:—

"We, the undersigned mechanics and others, in the employ of Messrs. Storr and Co. Dean Street, Soho, approving as we do of the designs and proceedings of the British and Foreign Bible Society, have resolved to contribute weekly the sums subjoined to our respective names, for the purpose of raising a fund, which, as soon as it shall at any time amount to £.——, Mr.——— shall be requested to pay into the hands of the Collector of the Westminster Auxiliary Bible Society."

The following directions are taken from that sacred volume which we wish to circulate:—

1st. As to the *motive* which ought to influence us in this and every good work that we do, read 1 Cor. vi. 19, 20: "Ye are not your own; ye are

* This establishment now belongs to Messrs. Rundell and Co.

bought with a price; therefore glorify GOD in your body, and in your spirit, which are GOD's."

2d. As to the *amount* of your subscription, see 2 Cor. ix. 6, 7: "He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly nor of necessity: for GOD loveth a cheerful giver."

3d. If any man should say, The trifle I can afford to give is so small that I may as well not give, see Luke xxi. 1. 4: "And JESUS looking up, saw the rich men casting their gifts into the treasury: and he saw a certain poor widow casting in thither two mites. And he said, Of a truth I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast in more than they all:"—so that the Searcher of hearts sees and esteems your penny, given from a just motive, more than the wealthier man's guinea, if his motive be corrupt.

4th. As to *reward*, see Matthew x. 42: "Whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward."

A book, containing these rules, with some blank paper, was left for the signature of such of the men as were disposed to become members, who also put the sum, whether a penny or more per week, that they intended to give, against their names:—and we had the pleasure of seeing, in a short time, the names of more than one half of the people employed in the manufactory.

Our Association, at present, comprises one subscriber of fivepence per week; eleven of threepence per week; eighteen of twopence per week; seventeen of three-halfpence per week; and twenty-one of one-penny per week. We have now nearly accomplished our object of supplying ourselves with Bibles. Whether, when that object is rendered complete, our Association will continue to exist, may be doubtful: but, should it dissolve, we shall have the satisfaction of knowing, that, while we have been serving ourselves, we have not neglected others.

The whole amount paid to the support of the Bible-cause from persons in the employ of Messrs. Storr and Co., in little more than two years, is, sixty-four pounds seventeen shillings. We mention this, in the first place, to shew the great utility of circulating printed intelligence concerning the grand and benign operations of the Parent Society. It has been already stated, that one of their Reports was the instrument to kindle the flame with us; and this flame has since been fed with "Summaries, Brief Views, Extracts of Intelligence," &c. which (on declaring the purpose for which they were requested) we found no difficulty in obtaining from the depository.

We mention it, secondly, to shew what great aid may be obtained from manufactories. There are many advantages to be found in a manufactory which do not exist elsewhere; for instance, we can instantly circulate intelligence. Men, it is well known, will do that cheerfully in conjunction with their fellow-workmen, which they will not do at all in other connexions. The labour of collecting is reduced to almost nothing, for we have our subscribers all before us; and (which is no small advantage) we stand at little if any expense; indeed we have never yet incurred any.

We hear great things said of the magnitude of the funds of the Bible Society; and it is to be feared that this style of talking induces many to suppose that those funds are rich enough without any assistance from them. We are far from thinking that what has been done is an adequate expression of gratitude to God from a nation so deeply indebted for its prosperity, and from so numerous a population. One farthing a month, or threepence

Desire to assist in promoting the Foreign objects.

a-year, from every individual in the United Kingdom, would produce a much larger revenue than the funds of the Bible Society and all the different Missionary Societies together. It is evident, therefore, that, while a small portion of the community has taken a becoming interest in this truly honourable and glorious cause, the great mass has hitherto been unmoved. A considerable portion, we know, of that mass is employed in manufactories; and we have proved, (not by logical deductions, but by the fact,) that a manufactory, possessed of no peculiar local facilities above others, can furnish a Bible Association. What more likely to draw down the blessing of GOD upon our manufactories and commerce, than to have Bible Associations established in them? In every institution where business unites and associates a number of men, the subject might be introduced with advantage. The Bible, we know, is the germ from which our greatness and that rank of pre-eminence which we hold among the nations have arisen. GOD has communicated it to us as a precious talent, of which he will require an account. It is by communicating, that we shall enjoy; by scattering, that we shall increase our store. There is now an open door set before us: we have the means of enlightening the nations: it is no small honour that GOD has conferred upon us. If we use our means, it is well; but if we callously and from narrow selfishness refuse, GOD will raise up deliverance for the nations from some other quarter; for his time seems to be approaching, and we shall lose the reward."

2. When this report of their proceedings was printed, by desire of the Conference, and read to the subscribers, the only part of it with which they found fault, was, the paragraph in which a doubt is intimated as to the continuance of their subscriptions after they should be supplied with Bibles. The general feeling was thus expressed: "No, we will not give it up; we will continue it; and we hope our example will be followed by other manufacturers." The following extracts, from the subsequent reports of this remarkable Association, will sufficiently illustrate the motives that influenced the members, and cannot fail to interest the reader.

"Under the divine blessing, we owe the credit we have gained to the exercise of these three virtues—liberality, moderation, and patience:—liberality, exercised towards foreign objects;—moderation, in that we have always taken the Brevier Bible, that we might be able to be liberal: in every case where the Small-Pica Bible has been taken, the individual has paid the difference of the price;—and patience, each man having waited patiently until he could be supplied; and that was not before *double money had been paid to the Auxiliary*. Now, if these three virtues can be made to predominate more in the respective associations, we shall soon lose our distinction; and we do most devoutly wish this to be the case: for, though it would argue insensibility to be unaffected with the applause of good and discerning men; yet, feeling as we do, that before GOD we are unprofitable servants, and that before men we have done no more than it was our duty to do,—feeling also the importance of the *great cause* in which we are all engaged,—we say, that we had rather be obscured by the great crowd of vigorous associations, each of which should come up to or exceed our standard, than continue to merit any peculiar distinction among them.

"We have never witnessed upon any other subject so much unanimity and concord, kept up for so long a time (now three years), as we have on

the subject of the Bible Society. The subscribers think they shall never be poorer for what little they give for this purpose; they feel it an honour to stand foremost in the ranks; and what they do is done heartily.

"It gives us great pleasure to find that the subject has been successfully introduced into several manufactories: there is in such establishments, generally speaking, a current, which, whatever way turned, runs with great violence. Democracy hath often profited of this; calling to its aid, drunkenness, and every evil work in its train. Infidelity hath profited of this:—thanks be to GOD! its day, we trust, is nearly passed.

"At the time our Bible Association was formed, a lottery-club existed in one of the shops; but, in consequence of the former association exciting and producing (as is always its natural tendency) a higher tone of thinking and acting, the men have recently determined *to transfer their subscriptions from the lottery to the Church Missionary Society*; and we hope to produce for that society about seven pounds per annum.

"About a month ago, the adjoining premises to ours were burnt down; the destruction was rapid, and our manufactory was in imminent danger; but, by the prompt assistance and activity of some of our men, the fire, which had caught the top of the building, was extinguished. For this their activity and exertion, they were presented by the Fire-Insurance Company with a gratuity of five pounds, which was equally divided. When the division was made, one of them observed,—'It was not *we* that saved the building, but Providence;—the wind blew the flames and smoke directly from us; and we were enabled, in consequence, to stand upon the roof and extinguish the flames where they had taken hold: I will therefore give my quota to the Bible Association: it may be the means of putting a Bible into the hands of some child, or ignorant person, and teaching them the consolatory truth of a particular Providence, that not even a sparrow falls without our Heavenly Father's knowledge.' His example was followed by some others; and hence we received a donation of twenty-three shillings.

"The principle upon which this society acts, is, That each member shall subscribe from one penny to sixpence per week; and the value of one half the amount paid into the general fund shall be received back in Bibles, if required, to be distributed among the men.

"On a reference to the First Report of the Dean-Street Association, it will be found there is a doubt expressed, whether, after their object (which was that of supplying themselves with Bibles) was accomplished, the Association would continue to exist. It is with the greatest pleasure that we observe this apprehension to be without foundation; our subscriptions being at present nearly double the amount of those at the time the Report was made. We have at present eleven subscribers at sixpence per week; two at fourpence; ten at threepence; forty-three at twopence; and thirty-one at one penny per week; making, in all, eighteen shillings and fivepence per week."

The following ABSTRACT exhibits a statement of the Accounts of this Association to the month of April 1820:

Total amount paid to the Westminster Auxiliary Bible Society	£. 271. 10. 6
Received 304 Bibles, 26 Testaments, amounting, at cost prices, to	129. 11. 8
Balance appropriated to the general object of the British and Foreign Bible Society	£. 141. 18. 10

Number of Contributors, in April 1820, one hundred and twenty-five.

Tribute to the memory of Mr. Dyke, the founder of the Association.

In their Report to the Westminster Conference, April 1820, this Association place the value of their establishment in a new and interesting point of view; while they afford another evidence of the importance of giving every facility to the circulation of the Monthly Extracts:—

"Another decided proof of the utility of circulating printed intelligence has lately fallen under our observation. At the time of the recent trial of an individual for vending blasphemous publications, the principals of a manufactory, in which twenty-four men were employed, were made very uneasy by hearing that some of their workmen had adopted his pernicious opinions, and were doing all in their power to make proselytes among their fellow workmen. At this critical juncture, the "Monthly Extracts" for September fell into the hands of one of the principals; who, seeing the success of the Dean-Street Society, immediately thought that the formation of a similar establishment, in his own manufactory, would be the most proper and effectual method to counteract the efforts of these deluded men. Having drawn up a kind of prospectus, he called a general meeting of his workmen; and having explained the object, and satisfactorily answered every objection that was urged, he had the happiness of succeeding beyond his most sanguine expectations; no fewer than *twenty-two*, out of the twenty-four persons employed, having the next day enrolled their names as weekly subscribers."

3. In reference to this Association, the Committee of the Westminster Auxiliary Society, in their Annual Reports for 1818 and 1819, observe:—

"Besides the more extended operation of this example in other circles, your Committee are peculiarly gratified to report, that several similar Associations have been formed in different manufactories in this district. Among these, your Committee would direct your attention to the following: viz.—the Association of Manufacturers in the employment of Messrs. Hawkes, Mosely, and Co. which has contributed 48*l.*; of Messrs. Hatchett, 12*l.*; of Messrs. Spode and Copeland, 7*l.* 10*s.* 9*d.*; of Messrs. Hansard and Sons, 3*l.*; of Messrs. Hancock, Shepherd, and Co.; and of Messrs. W. Smith and Co. ..... There are now eleven Associations in various kinds of manufactories within the sphere of this Auxiliary, ten of which form Branches in connexion with the Associations in whose districts they are established."

It would be unjust to conclude this sketch of the progress and effects of the Dean-Street Association, without some allusion to the founder of that remarkable institution: nor can this be more appropriately made, than in the language of those who were best qualified to appreciate his worth; and who observe, in their Report for 1817,—

"It is with feelings of deep regret, we have to state the death of our highly-respected Secretary, *Mr. Joseph Dyke*. To our departed friend, as an instrument, we are indebted for the formation of our Society; and whatever degree of reputation it may have acquired amongst the friends of Bible Associations, must principally be ascribed to the intelligence and ability with which he conducted its concerns. Having said thus much, we should afford a very feeble proof of our regard for his memory, were we to allow the result of his labours to crumble into dust: the dictates of friendship forbid this: but considering, as we do, the British and Foreign Bible Society as amongst

the instruments which an all-wise Providence will make use of to enlighten the whole world, it becomes no longer a matter of friendship or choice; but an imperative duty, from which we can in no wise free ourselves, and be guiltless."

Thus, "*being dead, he yet speaketh;*" and to every one placed in a similar station, as a foreman or superintendent, the language addressed is, "*Go, and do thou likewise.*"

4. Proceeding in the order of their establishment, the next Association of this description appears to have been formed among the workmen of Messrs. Pritchard and Co., hat-manufacturers, Dean Street, Canterbury Square, *Southwark;* established in the year 1813, in consequence of the visits of the collectors of the St. Saviour's Bible Association, to which its funds have been paid. The aggregate results during the last seven years are:

Number of Contributors	128
Number of Bibles and Testaments received .	101
Amount collected	£. 66 . 16 . 1
Ditto appropriated to the general object of the British and Foreign Bible Society	£. 32 . 8 . 1

5. The light that was kindled in the south was reflected from the north with increased brilliancy. In the year 1815, the Committee of the *Liverpool* Bible Society directed their attention to this important subject; and the following extract of a communication from their able and indefatigable Secretary *(Samuel Hope, Esq.)* to the lamented founder of these institutions, is a gratifying record of their success:—

"We have proposed the formation of Voluntary Associations among the mechanics collected under their own masters, in the more extensive manufacturing establishments of the town; and have every encouragement to proceed in the work. We have not yet met with one refusal from the proprietors, to whom we have made application for permission to lay the plan before the men for their consideration. In every instance, the men have heard us with respectful attention: and though many of them were evidently strangers to the Bible, they have not only fallen cheerfully into the proposal, but, so far as we can judge, it appears to have called their attention to the revelation which GOD has given us."

The Associations of Mechanics in connexion with the Liverpool Society will appear, by the following statement of their respective contributions to April 1820, to have aided, in no inconsiderable degree, the funds of that flourishing institution:—

Results of the Liverpool Mechanics' Associations.

ASSOCIATIONS OF MECHANICS

IN CONNEXION WITH THE LIVERPOOL AUXILIARY SOCIETY.

		£. s. d.
Phœnix Iron Foundry	Amount remitted,	148 . 10 . 6
Herculaneum Pottery	Ditto	115 . 0 . 0
Mr. Bartin Haigh's	Ditto	105 . 14 . 10
Caxton Printing Office	Ditto	36 . 9 . 10
Messrs. Thomas Dove and Co. . . .	Ditto	32 . 16 . 9
Mr. Henry Holt's	Ditto	22 . 9 . 7
Messrs. Staniforth and Laird	Ditto	10 . 0 . 0
Lamp Contractors and Lighters . . .	Ditto	10 . 0 . 0
Messrs. John Johnson and Son . . .	Ditto	9 . 1 . 9
Messrs. Webster and Forshaw . . .	Ditto	3 . 16 . 9
Mr. William Southell's	Ditto	3 . 0 . 0
Messrs. John Eccles and Son	Ditto	3 . 15 . 6
Mr. John Sutherland's	Ditto	2 . 3 . 3
Messrs. Thomas Roberts and Co. . . .	Ditto	1 . 3 . 4
Mr. Fairclough's	Ditto	1 . 1 . 0
Mr. James Holmes	Ditto	1 . 0 . 0
Messrs. M. Gladstone and Co. . . .	Ditto	0 . 9 . 0
		£.506 . 12 . 1

The aggregate average number of subscribers in these seventeen Associations may be estimated at 800;—they have received about 700 Bibles and Testaments;—and the total amount for which no return has been required, and which has consequently been contributed in aid of the general object of the Parent Society, exceeds *two hundred and fifty pounds.*

On this subject, the following extracts from the Eighth Report of the Liverpool Society are important, as affording an additional evidence, that the effect of the Bible Society, throughout all its ramifications, is such, as not only to supply the *demand* for the holy scriptures, but to create and extend a *desire* for their possession, and an interest in their universal circulation:—

"When the Ladies began their important visits upon that extended plan, and pursued them with that minuteness of detail by which their labours have been characterized, it might have been expected that they would, in some degree, prejudice the funds derived from the Mechanics' Associations; whose members, finding their families called upon to provide themselves with the Word of Life, might probably transfer their contributions to that channel through which the objects of their first solicitude would be most surely benefitted. But where is the wisdom of the wise? Contrary to the common elements of calculation, the very agency which appeared likely to diminish has, in fact and practice, augmented the funds of the Mechanic Associations. The amount acknowledged in the last Report was 102*l.* 18*s.* 1*d.*;

Similar Associations in Stockport and its Vicinity;—

that which has been received during the past year is 122*l.* 7*s.* 4*d.* The desire to possess the Scriptures has resembled a vigorous spring, long pent up in the earth, and long struggling to be free: when the first opening was made, it gushed instantaneouly to the day; and the more that opening has been enlarged by the hand of art, the more copious has been the flow. If increasing effort be thus followed by increasing success, the limit of the society's operation must become vastly enlarged, and the prospect of its usefulness almost incalculably great."

6. In the year 1814, a Bible Association was formed among the workmen of Mr. Atwell, in *Glasgow*, which contributed 6*l.* 16*s.* 5*d.* to the funds of the Auxiliary Society of that city. And it is with feelings of peculiar satisfaction, that the author is enabled to announce the commencement of similar institutions, in the important district embraced by the *Stockport* Auxiliary Society. The first of these was established in December 1819; and such was the zeal manifested by its members, and the success which attended their exertions, that, in August 1820, they had upwards of *three hundred* subscribers, of whom about 200 required Bibles or Testaments; and had remitted to the Auxiliary Society no less a sum than *fifty pounds*. Under a conviction, "that the open efforts of infidelity should be met by the open efforts of Christian benevolence; and that nothing was more likely to destroy its practical operation than the introduction of Bible Associations into our cotton manufactories;" the Committee of the Stockport Auxiliary Society published an address to the mill-owners of that town and its vicinity, explaining their object, and soliciting co-operation:—

"We call," they observe, "upon the master-manufacturers of the town to join us in this undertaking; and if they cannot bestow much of their time in practical efforts, at least to bestow upon us the smile of their approbation. Their respectability as men, and the extensive influence they command over the working population of the town, justify such an expectation: and if these Associations had no higher aim than to exert a commanding influence over the morals of the people, where is the master who would not sanction them? where is the master who would not rather see his workmen subscribe a penny a week for a Bible, than bestow their money in the chronicles of impiety and sedition? and where is the master among us, who, instead of hearing in his factory the strains of impure and licentious songs, would not rather see that place hallowed by the influence of religion? We submit these remarks to their considerations with great deference, as we have the pleasure of numbering among them some of the best friends and best supporters of our society."

7. Besides those which have been enumerated, the only Association of Mechanics with which the author is acquainted, is that established in March 1820, by the individuals employed in the manufactory of Mr. Paul Storr, in Harrison Street, Gray's-Inn Road, London, for the express purpose of contributing to the funds of the British and Fo-

and in Mr. Storr's Manufactory, who himself acts as PRESIDENT.

reign Bible Society. In their printed address, they observe, —"The generality of the members have been already supplied with Bibles from a former society of this description; and a sufficient number remains on hand to supply those who are in need of the sacred volume." They further state, that "a fund had already been raised by some zealous individuals, which was immediately placed in the hands of the treasurer, as a first-fruit of their earnestness to promote so good a cause."

Within six weeks after the formation of this Association, it consisted of *seventy-four* members, who were thus classed:

Six of One Guinea per Annum,	Two of Sixpence . . per Week,
One of One Pound . . . ditto,	Eight of Threepence . . . ditto,
One of Ten Shillings . ditto,	Twenty-eight of Twopence ditto,
Two of Sixpence per Month,	Three of Three Halfpence ditto,

and Twenty-three of One Penny per Week:

Forming an aggregate of 34*l.* 5*s.* 10*d.* per Annum.

In concluding their address, they remark—

"In stating these particulars, this Association disclaim all intention of boasting—they simply detail facts; but at the same time indulge an earnest hope that this Report may afford one more stimulus (should any be wanting) to the establishment of similar societies in large manufactories; being firmly convinced of the vast importance and salutary effects of sound religious instruction at all times, but more particularly at present, when every means are resorted to by the enemies of social order to undermine all the foundations both of the temporal and eternal happiness of mankind."

This Association held its first Annual General Meeting on the 5th of February 1821, when it appeared that the total receipts amounted to 29*l.* 12*s.* 1½*d.*; and it was resolved, that after paying for fifteen Bibles received for the members, the balance in hand, being 21*l.* 6*s.* 10½*d.* should be paid to the Committee of the Bloomsbury and South-Pancras Auxiliary Society, "for the general, and more especially the foreign, objects of the Parent Society." The Report concludes with the following striking observation:—

"As this Association is unavoidably confined to the manufactory in which it is situated, it cannot be expected to furnish subject for very extensive comment: but we must not omit stating our firm belief, that the circulation of the Word of God among its members has contributed, in an eminent degree, to the peace and good order of this concern."

It is worthy of particular notice, that this report is signed by Mr. Storr, as *President* of the Association:—an example deserving general imitation, and which goes far in accounting for the success with which it has been attended, both in a pecuniary and moral point of view.

While these examples demonstrate the value and importance of Bible Associations of Mechanics, and afford a satisfactory evidence of the facility with which they may be established, their results, both moral and pecuniary, excite a feeling of regret that they have not been more generally formed throughout the kingdom. The limited circulation of local reports, and the consequent ignorance of these institutions, and of the mode of conducting them, have doubtless prevented the extension of the system, the great importance of which must be evident to all who rightly consider the subject. Under this impression the author respectfully submits the following Regulations to those who may feel interested in this object.

SECTION II.

RULES RECOMMENDED FOR ADOPTION BY BIBLE ASSOCIATIONS OF MECHANICS.

I. That we form ourselves into an Association in connexion with the British and Foreign Bible Society, through the medium of the ——— Auxiliary (*or Branch*) Society, for the purpose of supplying ourselves with the holy scriptures, and of assisting in their universal circulation.

II. That every member subscribe not less than one penny a week. Such contribution to be paid regularly every Saturday to the Treasurer.

III. That as soon as the fund shall at any time amount to five pounds, it shall be paid over by the Treasurer to one of the Secretaries of the ——— Auxiliary (*or Branch*) Society; and acknowledgments of all such payments shall be produced by the Treasurer at the next Quarterly Meeting of the Association.

IV. That we avail ourselves of the offer of the ——— Auxiliary (*or Branch*) Society to return us Bibles and Testaments, at cost prices, to the amount, if required, of one-half the aggregate sum paid by this Association, for the supply of our own members and their families. The remaining half of our contributions shall be applied to the promotion of the general object of the British and Foreign Bible Society.

V. That a meeting of the members of this Association shall be held in the evening of the first Monday in January, April, July, and October, at seven o'clock precisely, for the purpose of receiving the Treasurer's account of receipts and disbursements, and of delivering the Bibles and Testaments.

VI. That the Bibles and Testaments distributed to the subscribers who require them, shall be delivered according to priority of claim; unless it should appear to the meeting that one case is more pressing than another.

VII. That the Treasurer shall be annually chosen at the meeting in January: he shall also act as Secretary, and keep an exact account of all receipts and disbursements, also of all Bibles and Testaments received and delivered, and any other particulars relative to the proceedings of this Association.

VIII. That the Treasurer be requested to make application to the Secretaries of the ——— Auxiliary (*or Branch*) Society for two copies of their last Annual Report, and two copies of the last Report of the British and Foreign Bible Society: and that they be also requested to supply this Association, monthly, with twelve copies of "Extracts of Correspondence:"—these books and papers to be circulated among the members, under the direction of the Treasurer.

IX. That a Committee of three subscribers, including the Treasurer, shall be annually appointed, at the meeting in October, to prepare a report of the proceedings of the Association, with any interesting particulars of beneficial effects. Such report to be submitted to the meeting in January, and, when adopted, to be transmitted to the Committee of the ——— Auxiliary (*or Branch*) Society.

X. That Mr. ——— be appointed Treasurer for the ensuing year.

XI. That respectful application be made to Mr. ——— (*the Proprietor of the Concern*), requesting him to accept the Presidency of the Association.

XII. That a copy of these resolutions, signed by the (*President or*) Treasurer, be transmitted to the Committee of the ——— Auxiliary (*or Branch*) Society.

OBSERVATIONS.

I. Where no Auxiliary (or Branch) Society exists, the Association may be formed in direct connexion with the British and Foreign Bible Society. In reference to the *Second* Rule, strict attention should be paid to punctuality of payment, and collection. The day most convenient to the members should be appointed for this purpose; and the sum be immediately entered in the book, opposite to the subscriber's name.—(*See Specimen of the Treasurer's Book.*)

II. The sum specified in the *Third* Rule may be increased or diminished, according to the extent of the Association, and the wishes of the subscribers.

III. If the return of one-half, as stated in the *Fourth* Rule, should be found inadequate to the wants of the members, the Auxiliary (or Branch) Committee will grant a further supply, on application, even to the full amount of the contribution from the Association.

IV. The Quarterly Meeting should always be held on the premises where the members are employed, and at an hour which does not interfere with their work. The President, or in his absence the Treasurer, should preside at all such meetings.

V. In reference to the *Seventh* and *Eleventh* Rules, it will be found very important to get one of the proprietors of the manufactory to accept the appointment of President, and the principal superintendent to fill the office of Treasurer. In a large Association it may be desirable to appoint a Secretary in addition, who should also be one that occupies a responsible station in the concern.

VI. The number of copies of the Reports and Monthly Extracts will, of course, vary according to the extent of the Association: of the latter, one copy may answer for every four subscribers, each of whom may have it for two or three days. A constant interest will thus be maintained, and a

knowledge of the proceedings and effects of Bible Societies be diffused among the members. Nor is it unreasonable to expect, that the perusal of these documents may have a powerful influence on the minds of the subscribers. Of the pernicious tendency of those publications that have recently been circulated with so much industry among our manufacturing population, every reflecting and well-governed mind is abundantly convinced. And can we hesitate to adopt a measure which provides a silent but effectual corrective? Shall we suffer the Press to become the instrument of evil, and not call forth its powers to counteract the mischief? Those powers are resistless, on whatever side they are employed; and it is alike our interest and our duty to enlist them in the cause of virtue. And surely nothing is more likely to introduce a correct taste, to awaken the benevolent principle, and to attract the affections of the heart, than these records of mercy, peace, and gratitude. Here the rich tribute is rendered to British charity: here the irrefragable evidence of benefit is produced: and here the voluntary witnesses assemble, from the four quarters of the globe, to testify their grateful attachment to that generous land which could not rest satisfied with the possession of the sacred treasure, without making all nations partakers of its wealth and participants of its joy.

SECTION III.

MODE OF KEEPING THE ACCOUNTS.

1. As the distinguishing feature in the plan of these Associations is simplicity, and those who conduct them have in general but little time at their command, the accounts should be so kept as to save all unnecessary trouble, while they exhibit a clear view of every transaction. These objects, it is submitted, can be fully attained, by having only *two* books, which may be so constructed as to contain all the requisite particulars in the most simple and intelligible form: a MINUTE BOOK, in which the proceedings of the Quarterly and Annual Meetings should be inserted by the Secretary, and the Reports of the Treasurer be transcribed; and the TREASURER'S BOOK, in which a statement of every pecuniary transaction should be kept. The former requires no particular observation; and the annexed Specimen, with the explanatory remarks subjoined, will sufficiently illustrate the latter.

2. The Treasurer's Book should be of Quarto size; and if it contain fifty or sixty leaves, it will comprise the accounts of the Association for several years. It will be perceived by

the Specimen No. 1, that a number is prefixed to the name of every subscriber:—these numbers should be continued uninterruptedly throughout the Book: thus the first number in folio 2 will be 19. It will save considerable trouble, if the Treasurer specify an hour, weekly, for receiving the Contributions, and make the regular entry in his book at the time the subscription is paid.

3. Should any subscriber wish for a Bible or Testament, after having originally declined availing himself of his privilege, he should be supplied. In all such cases, the entry of "No" should be erased, and the description of Bible or Testament inserted in the proper column. When a subscriber dies, or discontinues his subscription, a notification to that effect should be inserted opposite to his name, as in the case of No. 7 in the Specimen. The requisite entry should be made in the last column, *before* the Bible or Testament is delivered to the subscriber.

4. It will be observed, that spaces are left at the bottom of the page, for the purpose of adding up and inserting the Weekly and Quarterly amounts. These entries, checked by the cash in the Treasurer's hands, will enable him to prepare his Quarterly Statement, according to the following form; viz.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Presented the 3d of April 1820.

	£.	s.	d.
Amount received in January	4.	0.	8
Ditto . . in February	0.	9.	2
Ditto . . in March	0.	10.	9
Total received	5.	0.	7
Paid to the ——— Auxiliary Bible Society	5.	0.	0
Balance now in the Treasurer's hands . .	£.0.	0.	7

Received from the AUXILIARY SOCIETY:—2 Brevier and 2 Minion BIBLES; 3 Pica and 2 Brevier TESTAMENTS; amounting, at cost-prices, to 2*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.*

Claimed by SUBSCRIBERS:—2 Brevier Bibles, and 1 Pica Testament.

*** This report should be *filed*, for reference.

5. In reference to the Specimen No. 2, the Treasurer should always give a *written* order for Bibles and Testaments: and it is the duty of the Secretary or Depositary of the Auxiliary (or Branch) Society to furnish an invoice with every parcel. This invoice should be immediately entered by the Treasurer, and produced, with the acknowledgment of the last remittance, at the next Quarterly Meeting of the Association.

SPECIMEN,

[To occupy all the Book, except the Four last Folios.—

No.	SUBSCRIBERS' NAMES.	Rate of Contribution.	Whether a Bible or Testament is required or not.
1.	*Messrs. Storr & Co.*	2 *Guineas per ann.*	*No*
2.	*Mr. William Storr*.....	1 *Guinea*	*No*
3.	*Mr. Joseph Dyke*	10*s.* 6*d.*	*No*
4.	*John Brown*.....	4*d. a week*	*No*
5.	*Thomas Johnson*.....	3*d.*	*No*
6.	*James Field*.....	4*d.*	*No*
7.	*Matthew Gage*	2*d.*	*No*
8.	*George Jones*	1*d.*	*No*
9.	*Peter Grant*.....	1*d.*	*A Brevier Bible*
10.	*John Thomas*.....	1*d.*	*No*
11.	*Robert Bruce*	2*d.*	*No*
12.	*Edward Price*.....	1*d.*	*No*
13.	*Thomas Bond*	3*d.*	*No*
14.	*Joseph Ford*..... ..	4*d.*	*A Brevier Bible*
15.	*William Took*	2*d.*	*No*
16.	*Charles Morgan*	6*d.*	*A Pica Testament*
17.	*Henry Hart*	1*d.*	*No*
18.	*Samuel Stringer*	1*d.*	*No*
		WEEKLY COLLECTIONS	
		QUARTERLY AMOUNTS.....	

SPECIMEN,

[To occupy the Four last

Dr. The ——— Auxiliary (or Branch) Society in

1820.		L.	s.	d.
March 27.	*To Cash per Mr. A.B., Secretary*.....	5	0	0

No. 1.

[The Columns of the last two Quarters to be inserted before the Annual Amount.]

	January.					February.				March.				April.				May.					June.				Annual Amount			When supplied.
	3	10	17	24	31	7	14	21	28	6	13	20	27	3	10	17	24	1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26	£.	s.	d.	
		42s.																												
	21s.																													
				10/6																										
			4	4	4	4	—	8	4	4	—	—	1s.	4	4	4														
				3	3	3	—	6	3	—	6	3	3	3	3	3														
					4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	—	—	1s.	4														
			2	—	4	2	2	2	2	—	—	6	2	2	2	—		Deceased.												
		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1														
				1	1	1	—	2	1	1	1	1	—	2	1	1														
		1	1	—	2	1	1	1	—	—	3	1	1	1	—	2														
			2	2	2	2	2	—	—	6	2	2	—	4	—	—														
					1	1	1	1	—	2	1	1	—	—	2	1														
		3	3	6	3	3	3	—	—	9	3	3	—	6	3	—														
			4	4	4	4	4	4	—	8	4	4	4	—	—	1s.														
		2	2	2	—	—	6	—	4	2	2	2	2	—	4	2														
			6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	—	1s.	6	6	6														Apr. 3.
				1	1	1	—	2	1	1	—	2	1	1	1	1														
			1	1	1	1	1	—	2	1	1	1	—	2	1	1														
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No. 2.

[Folios of the Book.]

account with the —— Mechanics' Association. Cr.

1820.		s.	d.	L.	s.	d.
March 27.	By 2 *Brevier Bibles, at 7s. 5d.*	14	10			
	2 *Minion Do. at 6s. 2d.*	12	4			
	3 *Pica Testaments, Calf, at 4s. 4d.*	13	0			
	2 *Brevier Do. Sheep, at 1s. 7d.*	3	2			
				2	3	4

Peculiar importance of these institutions at the present period.

SECTION IV.

GENERAL REMARKS.

1. If there be any portion of the system of the Bible Society that is *peculiarly* applicable to the circumstances of Great Britain at the present period, it appears to be that which we are now considering. To those who possess a salutary influence over the minds of their subordinate workmen, a question of vital importance suggests itself—"*How has this influence been exercised?*" If every master-manufacturer and superintendant would seriously put this inquiry to his own conscience, and be governed by the answer he receives, the results would be speedily witnessed, and the best interests of our country be essentially promoted.

2. That universal education on the basis of the Bible would be an universal benefit, is the decided conviction of the author; but whether this opinion be well or ill founded, is not now the question. The evil, if it be one, is done;—an appetite is created, which *must* be fed; and if you do not supply it with wholesome and solid food, we too well know that there are others who will administer attractive poison. And shall we sleep, while the enemy is sowing tares? Shall the Christian be supine, when the Infidel is active? Shall the friends of good order and subordination slumber at their posts, when the advocates of anarchy and confusion are abroad? If apathy and indifference be the consequence of superior knowledge, then indeed education *is* an evil: but if wisdom and intelligence be conferred, as they undoubtedly are, for practical and good purposes, it is in such times as these that their value is felt and their application demanded.

3. "The Bible," says Locke, "has GOD for its author; salvation for its end; and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter." The interest excited by a desire to possess it, or to assist in its universal diffusion, is as much superior to every sensual pursuit, as the concerns of eternity surpass those of the present hour. He who feels and cherishes this interest is elevated above the mean and sordid considerations that had formerly occupied his attention. His character expands with his capacity for enjoyment; and he rejects those incitements to evil, a compliance with which would degrade him in his own estimation, and in the opinion of those whose respect he can now appreciate.

4. The effect of this elevation of character will be felt in reference to his daily habits. The man who passes his even-

ings at the public-house, and associates with the idle and the profligate, gradually depresses the spring of honest industry, and weakens his attachment to domestic pleasures: whereas he who is induced by reflection and conviction to avoid those scenes of dissipation, and to find his best and tranquil enjoyments *at home*, will have a perpetual stimulus to exertion, in the increased comforts of his family and the satisfaction of his own mind. A strong and increasing sense of duty will render his toil a pleasure; and his employers will not be the last to reap the reward of this high tone of correct moral feeling, which they have been the instruments of exciting.

5. These observations will derive tenfold force, if we consider the Mechanic in the light of *a dispenser of charity*. Those know but little of the labouring classes in our country, who assert, that selfishness is their predominant characteristic. The benevolent principle may be torpid, but it still exists; —it may have been kept down by the leaden influence of pauperism, or misdirected by artifice and sophistry; but if you place it under the guidance of Religion, it will rise above these obstructions, and acquire strength and vigour by exercise. He who knows himself to be a benefactor of mankind, however limited the extent of his aid, will find within his own heart a stronger incentive to economy and industry than legislative enactments have ever provided. "I never knew," said an honest carpenter to the author; "I never knew, Sir, the value of independence till now. Formerly I never had a shilling to spare, because I always owed it at the public-house. I had a Bible, but I never read it, until the collectors of the Bible Association told me what it was. They asked me whether I could not spare a penny a-week, to send it over all the world; and I gave it without thinking about it. But when I read the paper they gave me, and my Bible afterwards, I found I had been for ten years injuring myself and my family, without getting any good by it; so I thought it was high time to make a change: and, blessed be GOD! He has enabled me to make it. I began to think, whether I could not give more than the poor penny a-week to such a great and good work; and I soon found I could double it without missing what I gave. This was the beginning, Sir; and now I have *eighteen pounds* in the SAVINGS' BANK, my family and home are comfortable and orderly, and I never was half so happy in my life."

CHAP. V.

JUVENILE AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS.

"JOSIAH WHILE HE WAS YET YOUNG, BEGAN TO SEEK GOD."
2 *CHRON.* XXXIV. 3.

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS.

AMONG the many considerations which a review of the Bible Society involves, few are more replete with interest than that on which we now enter. That persons of mature age, without distinction of country or sex, should co-operate in a work like this, does not excite surprise; but that the zeal and energy of *Children* should be called into exercise, is a subject of peculiar gratification, and affords one of the finest illustrations of that singleness of object and that simplicity of design which characterize this institution. It might naturally be supposed, that the interest manifested by the young, in this comprehensive scheme of Christian charity, had its origin in the suggestion of their parents, or was the result of similar exertions on the part of their seniors: but it is a memorable fact, that Juvenile Bible Associations constituted the *earliest* Auxiliaries of the Parent Institution; and have continued to the present day to pour their small, but unfailing rills into that mighty river by which the nations are refreshed.

It has been well observed by Mr. Owen:—"If a justification were required of this mode of employing the energies of the young, no other need be given than what is furnished by the following Scripture authority:—*And when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that he did, and the children crying in the temple, and saying, Hosanna to the Son of David, they were sore displeased; and said unto him, Hearest thou what these say? And* JESUS *saith unto them, Yea; have ye never read, Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise?*"

First Juvenile Bible Society formed at Sheffield.

SECTION I.

ORIGIN AND PROGRESS OF JUVENILE ASSOCIATIONS.

1. The first Juvenile Bible Society of which we possess any information, is that of SHEFFIELD, established, in the year 1804, without any knowledge of the existence of the British and Foreign Bible Society. The following extract of a letter from the *Rev. T. Best*, one of the Secretaries of the Sheffield Auxiliary Society, conveys so interesting an account of the origin of this remarkable Society, that no apology can be necessary for its introduction:—

"The Sheffield Juvenile Bible Society commenced in 1804. Its beginning was very small; it was indeed the least of all seeds.—A young lady about fifteen years of age,* observing, in her visits to the poor, a deplorable want of the holy scriptures, determined to do what she could towards supplying this want: she mentioned to her younger brother her intention of contributing something every week towards purchasing a Testament; for at this time she had no idea of being able to give away a Bible. She began with a penny, and he with a halfpenny: they procured a tin box, in which they kept their savings, till at length they amounted to sixteen pence, with which they bought a Testament. This young lady next drew up a short appeal, which she sent to her school-fellows: the proposal was received and entered upon with ardour, and the Testaments were given away as fast as they could be procured. A degree of system was gradually adopted; and the society has at different times received presents of books and money. The largest amount received in any one year was 32*l.* At first the society distributed Testaments only; but of late it has confined its distribution to Bibles; and these, as much as possible, of the largest size. The Committee consists of four of the members, who meet every fortnight."

Although an Auxiliary Society, and, more recently, a Ladies' Association, have been established at Sheffield, this little society continues its operations independent of both, paying over its funds to the former, and drawing back the full amount in Bibles and Testaments at cost-prices. The total number of copies distributed, during the sixteen years of its existence, exceeds *two thousand five hundred.*

This Society, it will be perceived, expends the whole of its funds in the purchase of Bibles and Testaments for *gratuitous* distribution;—a system which experience has proved to be inexpedient, and the evils of which can be counteracted only by the greatest caution and judgment in the selection of the recipients.

* The name of this young lady was Catherine Elliott. She is now the estimable mother of a family; but her zeal for the interests of the Society, which she founded, is unabated, and she still acts as its Treasurer.

2. From no class of the community has the Bible Society received more constant, and, in proportion to their means, liberal support, than from the teachers and children of SUNDAY SCHOOLS. The first contribution from this source was made, in the year 1808, by the *Holborn Sunday School;* and the aggregate amount remitted by that institution, to the close of the year 1819, is *282l. 7s. 6d.* The following extract of a letter from the Secretary explains the mode of contribution:—

"Each teacher subscribes one penny per week; and those children who wish it give one halfpenny per week: and we have the gratification to see several of the old scholars, who have been honourably dismissed the school, cheerfully petitioning to add their little mite weekly to the common stock. May the Divine Author of the Bible continue to prosper the efforts of your truly honourable Society, till all the inhabitants of the globe shall possess the precious Word of GOD, and, by the influences of the Holy Spirit, savingly understand it."

3. In the summer of 1812, the first Juvenile Association on a regular and systematic plan was established, under the designation of the SURREY-CHAPEL Bible Association, and composed principally of the children and teachers of twelve of the schools in connexion with the Southwark Sunday-School Society, comprising about three thousand scholars. In reference to this subject, the author feels a melancholy pleasure in recording the name of his lamented friend Mr. BENJAMIN NEALE, to whose judgment, energy, and perseverance, the institution of this extraordinary Association must, in a great measure, be ascribed. He watched over its progress with parental anxiety; and to the close of his active and valuable life it continued to be an object near his heart. Of the success which has attended this Association, the following statement of the aggregate results, to April 1820, will be a satisfactory evidence:—

Total number of Contributors and Subscribers, about . . .	12,000
Ditto of Bibles and Testaments distributed . .	9,316
Total amount remitted to the Southwark Auxiliary Bible Society	£.2115

4. In the year 1809, the young ladies of Miss TEULON'S School at Hackney made their first remittance to the Parent Society, and have steadily continued their generous aid in every succeeding year. The average number of contributors is about twenty-five; and the total amount contributed to the present time is 108*l.* for which no return is required.

5. Amongst the earliest efforts of this description, those of a young lady at COLCHESTER deserve particular notice. On the 1st of January 1813, she commenced a Juvenile Bible

Association, consisting of *fifty* young persons, chiefly under ten years of age, by whose united subscriptions she was enabled, before the close of that year, to present a donation of 11*l.* 12*s.* 8*d.* to the Auxiliary Society. Under the prudent and persevering direction of the same benevolent individual, this little society continues its laudable exertions; and the aggregate amount of its contributions in the seven years, ending November 1820, exceeds *ninety pounds*, for which no return of Bibles and Testaments has been required. Several *School Associations* have been subsequently established in connexion with the same Auxiliary Society, which are thus noticed in their Tenth Annual Report:—

"From one of these it appears the sum of 9*l.* 12*s.* 4*d.* has been received; from another, organized with a president, treasurer, secretary, and nine collectors, the sum of 10*l.* 12*s.*; from another, the sum of 1*l.* 4*s.* 8*d.* a contribution equally honourable to the parties who made it; and from two schools of poor girls in the parish of St. Peter, 1*l.*; making together 22*l.* 15*s.* —In addition to these sums, your Committee have to state the receipt of 3*l.* from an Association among the young gentlemen of Mr. Robertson's establishment; and of 5*l.* from one among those of Mr. Seaman's; and from the children of the Lancasterian Sunday School a free contribution of 17*s.* 10*d.* in addition to their purchase of Bibles. . . . . These may be regarded only as parts of the sums actually contributed by our youth, many among them being subscribers to the collectors of districts in the Ladies' Association; and it is also pleasing to observe, that many of those who have assisted your object have given a considerable assistance to other institutions of a religious nature."

6. In February 1813, a Juvenile Bible Association was established among the young gentlemen of Mr. ELWELL'S School at Hammersmith; which has been conducted with such exemplary attention to system, and characterized by such a degree of perseverance, as entitle it to particular notice. As the members of this little society attribute much of their success to the practical application of their VIIIth, IXth, and Xth Rules, no apology can be requisite for introducing the entire Code of Regulations.

LAWS *and* REGULATIONS *of the Association.*

I. That this Association be denominated, "A JUVENILE BIBLE ASSOCIATION, formed for the purpose of aiding the Funds of the Kensington, Chelsea, Fulham, and Hammersmith Auxiliary Bible Society, by Annual Donations."

II. That a Committee be appointed, consisting of nine members, including a chairman, a secretary, a treasurer, and a collector; which shall meet every Wednesday; when the treasurer and collector shall give an account of subscriptions received that day, and donations received during the preceding week.

III. That no business be transacted, unless five of the committee be present.

Rules and Regulations of Mr. Elwell's Association.

IV. That all sorts of conversation, or behaviour, irrelevant to the business before the committee, from the time that order is called till the time that the meeting is actually adjourned, be considered disorder, and, as such, punished by a fine of twopence, to be added to the funds of the Association.

V. That all Resolutions agreed to by the committee be signed by the chairman.

VI. That a new committee, chairman, secretary, treasurer, and collector, be appointed at the commencement of every half-year.

VII. That, at the commencement of each half-year, the chairman make inquiry whether any evidence of improper conduct can be substantiated against any member of the committee; and that if no such proofs are adduced, each member of the former committee may resume his seat in the new one;—all *vacancies* being filled up by *election*.

VIII. That if any member of the Association give a donation of two guineas, or separate donations to that amount, at or after his departure from the school, he shall become a Vice-Patron.

IX. That those members who, at their departure from the school, give a donation of one guinea, shall be considered Members for Life.

X. That three deputy collectors be elected quarterly, who shall receive the weekly subscriptions and donations; and that no person be chosen a member of the committee who has not previously passed through the office of deputy collector for a quarter of a year.

XI. That the committee be regular in their attendance on the appointed day; and that no member of it be absent more than once, (unless some sufficient reason for his non-attendance can be assigned to the chairman,) on pain of vacating his seat.

XII. That when the votes are equal, the chairman may give a casting or deciding vote; and shall have the power of calling a special meeting of the committee when he thinks proper.

XIII. That no sort of canvassing or bribery be allowed at the election of new committees, or officers of the Association, or at the proposing of Resolutions.

XIV. That no member be permitted to borrow money out of the funds of the Association.

XV. That a general meeting of the members of the Association be held twice every year, at such times as the committee shall think fit to appoint.

The following is an extract from the Report of this Association, for 1819:—

"Besides the advantage immediately derived from your subscriptions and donations, your example brings with it one still greater. It will, doubtless, give you great pleasure to hear, that one of your former members, whose zeal in this cause has often been witnessed, has lately established a Juvenile Bible Association in a school near Portsmouth, and adopted the rules of your association. Your Committee earnestly exhort other members to follow this example; hoping that, by this means, associations on a similar plan may be formed, and thus a greater number of youthful advocates may arise to succeed those who are now the great supporters of the Bible Society. Your Committee feel happy in the consideration that it is not a fleeting impulse of youthful ardour which has excited you to undertake the support of so great a cause, but a steady determination, arising from feelings of love to mankind and gratitude to GOD, which has influenced your exertions, and directed your operations."

The average number of contributors is thirty-six; and the total amount already remitted for the general object of the British and Foreign Bible Society, is *231l. 3s. 7½d.*

In reference to this Association, and to a kindred institution in the same district, the Committee of the Kensington Auxiliary Society, in their Third Annual Report, observe :—

"The young gentlemen of Mr. Standen's Academy (Hammersmith) have continued to present their yearly donation of fourteen guineas: while those in connexion with the establishment of Mr. Elwell, of the same place, have raised their former subscription of twenty guineas to twenty-five, and have given five guineas, in addition, to the Hammersmith Association. Let those attend to this fact, who thought that the continuance of juvenile ardour was not to be expected, and that the hopes expressed of this nature were sanguine and unwarranted. For themselves, the Committee still entertain the same hopes; and from no quarter do they less apprehend disappointment than from the young."

At *York, Bradford, Exeter, Manchester, Kingston-on-Thames,* and a few other places, similar Associations have been subsequently formed. Of these, the Juvenile Association of the Leaf-Square Academy, near *Manchester,* merits particular notice, in consequence of the zeal and judgment that have characterized its proceedings. It was established in the year 1814: the average number of contributors is about forty; and the amount, collected to April 1820, is *117l. 11s. 3d.*

7. As there is no country upon earth which is more indebted to education and the Bible than SCOTLAND—elevated as she has been in the scale of nations through their instrumentality—so there is none that has more strikingly evinced its gratitude, by promoting the extension of the one, and the circulation of the other. In the formation of Juvenile Bible Associations, her youth exhibited an early example, and have continued with steady perseverance their liberal aid. The first institution of this kind in Scotland appears to have been that of the Edinburgh Juvenile Society, established in the spring of 1813, the origin of which is thus described in the fourth Annual Report of the Edinburgh Bible Society:—

"A few young persons connected with a Sabbath School voluntarily began with contributing the small sum of a halfpenny per week on account of the Bible Society: their numbers gradually increased, until some grown-up persons considered it their duty to encourage their efforts, and agreed to form them into a society, and to assist in the management of their concerns. It appeared to them, that, by an Association of this kind, besides the pecuniary advantage to the Bible Society, an impression peculiarly favourable might be made on the minds of the young persons themselves. While it cannot be expected that all who become members will do so under the influence of serious feeling, it is at least likely that this Society will contain none openly wicked and profane. By the frequent intercourse of

such comparatively well-disposed youths, will the danger arising from bad associates be diminished, the influence of religious example be generally diffused, and the attention of all be habitually drawn to the good ways of the Lord. While engaged in providing Bibles for others, may the God of all grace make them anxious to read and understand their own; and while assisting in the glorious work of making others wise unto salvation, may each of them be made wise for himself!"

The aggregate amounts derived to the funds of the *Edinburgh* and *Glasgow* Societies, from this source, to the year 1819, are,

Edinburgh, from seven Juvenile Associations . £.546 . 1 . 0
Glasgow, from six . . . ditto . . . . £.267 . 19 . 0

By similar Associations at *Aberdeen*, *Greenock*, *Paisley*, &c. a proportional degree of zeal and liberality has been manifested; and it is very probable, that in many other parts of Great Britain combined indications of the interest felt by the young in this work of mercy, have been discovered, although the particulars have not been made public. The following is selected from among numerous evidences of an *individual* desire to contribute towards an object which even children can understand and appreciate. After an interesting meeting in the North of England, a paper was handed to the author, of which the following is a transcript:—

"A young person was at the meeting last night, whose exertions in aid of the Bible Society began at perhaps an earlier period than most in the room: and as I feel confident that the circumstance excites in her mind no feeling but that of gratitude to GOD, and to her excellent parents, I will mention the fact to you, in the hope of its furnishing a hint for usefulness to others. In her days of infancy, when a penny was given to her for learning a hymn, it was, at her mother's suggestion, deposited in a little box till it had five companions; they were then exchanged for a silver sixpence. A shilling, by the same process, soon occupied its place, or became united to it at once, by a chapter being committed to memory. Whenever ten shillings could be counted, they were placed by the child in the hand of her affectionate father, who returned to his pleased little-one a promissory note for the ten shillings with interest, in due form. On the establishment of the Bible Society here, the several notes were produced, and the accumulated fund was called in:—it amounted to TEN GUINEAS, which were with unspeakable pleasure committed to its better bank, as '*Savings from Infancy*,' and inserted as such in the first Annual Report of the Auxiliary Society."

SECTION II.

RULES AND REGULATIONS.

In preparing the following regulations, the author has endeavoured to render them as simple as possible; and such observations are subjoined as appeared necessary to make

the plan perfectly intelligible to those for whose use they are designed.

1. RULES *recommended for adoption by* JUVENILE BIBLE ASSOCIATIONS.

I. That an Association be now formed in connexion with the ——— Auxiliary (or *Branch*) Bible Society (or ——— *Bible Association*), to be denominated "The ——— Juvenile Bible Association, for the purpose of contributing towards the circulation of the holy scriptures, without note or comment, throughout the world."

II. That each Member of this Association subscribe not less than one penny a-week; and that every person presenting a donation of one guinea, or upwards, either at one time or within a year, shall be a member for life.

III. That the business of this Association be conducted by a treasurer, secretary, and a committee, consisting of all the members who collect sixpence or upwards per week: the treasurer and secretary to be chosen annually, and to be eligible for re-election.

IV. That the committee meet on the ——— day of every month, at — o'clock precisely, and that the business commence as soon as five members are present.

V. That each collector be furnished by the secretary with a collecting-book, numbered according to the order of appointment, for the purpose of entering the names of contributors and Bible subscribers; and that the amount received shall be paid over to the treasurer at every committee meeting.

VI. That if any member of this Association wishes to subscribe for a Bible or Testament for his (or *her*) own use, or for the supply of any poor child or person unable to subscribe, such subscription shall be received, and the Bible or Testament be delivered when the cost-price has been paid.

VII. That the whole of the contributions, after deducting incidental expenses, shall be paid by the treasurer, quarterly, to the committee of the ——— Auxiliary (or *Branch*) Bible Society (or ——— *Bible Association*), to be applied, after paying for any Bibles and Testaments which have been received, to the general object of the British and Foreign Bible Society.

VIII. That a general meeting of the subscribers shall be held annually, when the treasurer's account, as audited by the committee, shall be presented, the proceedings of the last year reported, and a treasurer and secretary appointed. A copy of the Report to be sent to the committee of the ——— Auxiliary (or *Branch*) Society (or ——— *Bible Association*).

IX. That *A.B.* be treasurer, and *C. D.* secretary for the year ensuing.

X. That a copy of these Rules, signed by the treasurer and secretary, be transmitted to the committee of the ——— Auxiliary (or *Branch*) Society (or ——— *Bible Association*); and that they be respectfully requested to furnish the Association with their Annual Reports, and with five copies of the "Extracts of Correspondence," monthly.

OBSERVATIONS.

1st Rule.—If the society be established in a school, it may be denominated "The Bible Association of Mr. (*Mrs.* or *Miss*———'s) School."

2d Rule.—In School Associations, the privilege of being life-members may be extended to those subscribers who leave the school, but who still manifest an interest in the cause.

Observations on the Rules and Regulations.

3d Rule.—The TREASURER of a School Association should *always* be one of the principals or teachers of the seminary. The SECRETARY should be one of the scholars; and in this appointment, the master (or *mistress*) should be consulted:—temper and character, as well as ability, should distinguish the individual selected.

4th Rule.—The day and hour of the committee-meeting should be such as do not interfere with the duties of the members, who should endeavour to meet *punctually*, and to give their undivided attention to the business. At every committee-meeting, the treasurer presides to preserve order. When the secretary calls for the Reports, the collectors, beginning with No. 1., present their books (*see Specimen*), and pay over the money to the treasurer, while the secretary examines the additions in the book. When all have been presented, the secretary reports the amount of each, and the total sum received. The treasurer then reports any payment made to the Auxiliary (or *Branch*) Society (or *Association*) since the last meeting; after which, any claims for Bibles and Testaments are received, and the stock in hand (if any) is reported by the secretary.

5th Rule.—In School Associations, the collectors should be approved by the master (or *mistress*) before they are furnished with books: and in all juvenile societies, they should be selected with caution. The entry of every sum should be made at the time it is received, and the collecting book be neatly and correctly kept.

6th Rule.—In Sunday Schools, and other Associations of *poor* children, the rate at which Bibles and Testaments shall be delivered may be fixed by the committee. In many instances it may be desirable to deliver them when half the cost-price has been paid, and in some few cases *gratuitously*; but this should be done only after strict personal investigation.

7th Rule.—The treasurer should receive an acknowledgment for all payments to the Auxiliary (or *Branch*) Society, and submit it to the next meeting of the committee: and the secretary should present the account of any Bibles and Testaments received.

8th Rule.—In School Associations, the Annual Meeting may be advantageously held immediately before the vacation. The children should be allowed to take home their books, (*which should be carefully preserved and returned,*) and any papers relative to the society; by which means an interest in the object may be materially promoted and extended.

10th Rule.—The "Extracts of Correspondence" should circulate among the members, and be lent to their friends and acquaintance. Nothing is more likely to confirm their attachment to the society, than the perusal of these important and interesting documents. The number required will depend on the extent of the Association.

SECTION III.

MODE OF KEEPING THE ACCOUNTS.

*** *In all the Specimens referred to or contained in this Section, the entries in Italics are to be considered as Manuscript.*

The following Books are recommended for Juvenile Bible Associations:

1. THE COLLECTING BOOK.

As this book, with which every Collector is furnished by the Secretary, is precisely similar to the Specimen No. 2 of the "Collecting Book" used in Ladies' Bible Associations, it is only necessary to refer the reader to Chap. VII. Section V., where every requisite information will be obtained.

2. MINUTE BOOK.

This is a thin quarto book, and is kept by the Secretary. The names of the Committee should be inserted on the first page, with blanks opposite to each notifying their attendance, as described in the Specimen of the "Fair Minute Book," Chap. II. Section V. The Rules of the Association should next be inserted; and then the Minutes of every Committee Meeting in succession. The following Specimen of the Minutes of a Committee Meeting will sufficiently illustrate this part of the subject:—

At the Sixth Meeting of the Committee, held on the 13th of April 1820:

PRESENT:

Mrs. *A. B.* in the Chair,

and those Ladies who are marked as present in the list.

56.* The Minutes of the last meeting having been read and confirmed, the Treasurer reported that she had paid to the Cash Secretary of the ——— Auxiliary Society, since the last meeting, the sum of 8*l.* 10*s.*, for which an acknowledgment was now produced, and marked No. 2 by the Secretary. Also, that the total amount paid to the Auxiliary Society since the establishment was 21*l.* 15*s.*

57. The Secretary reported, that she had received from the Depositary of the Auxiliary Bible Society, since the last meeting, two Brevier and three Nonpareil Bibles, and three Pica and two Pocket Testaments, amounting to 2*l.* 5*s.*; and that the total amount of Bibles and Testaments received from the Auxiliary Society since the establishment is 4*l.* 7*s.* 10*d.*

* If the Minutes be numbered progressively throughout the book, it will save considerable time and trouble in referring to any particular subject. The first Minute of the Seventh Committee Meeting will thus be numbered, "60."

Specimen of Proceedings at a Committee Meeting.

58. The Reports having been called for from the Collectors, the following sums were paid in:—

	Free.			Bibles.			Total.		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
No. 1. from 7 Contributors . .	—.	1.	7	—.	—.	—	—.	1.	7
2. ... 6 Do. . . .	—.	2.	8	—.	—.	6	—.	3.	2
3. ... 11 Do. . . .	1.	3.	2	—.	—.	—	1.	3.	2
4. ... 23 Do. . . .	—.	18.	2	—.	1.	4	—.	19.	6
5. ... 7 Do. . . .	—.	3.	3	—.	—.	2	—.	3.	5
6. ... 8 Do. . . .	1.	1.	6	—.	1.	4	1.	2.	10
7. ... 13 Do. . . .	—.	8.	4	—.	2.	—	—.	10.	4
8. ... 16 Do. . . .	—.	12.	—	—.	—.	—	—.	12.	—
9. ... 11 Do. . . .	—.	1.	8	—.	—.	—	—.	1.	8
10. ... 9 Do. . . .	—.	2.	2	—.	1.	1	—.	3.	3
11. ... 21 Do. . . .	—.	17.	1	—.	—.	—	—.	17.	1
12. ... 10 Do. . . .	—.	6.	6	—.	—.	8	—.	7.	2
13. ... 14 Do. . . .	—.	8.	7	—.	2.	6	—.	11.	1
Total . . . £	6.	6.	8	—.	9.	7	6.	16.	3

which said sum of 6*l.* 16*s.* 3*d.* was paid over to the Treasurer.

59. The following copies of the holy scriptures were delivered: viz. To the Collector No. 4, a Nonpareil Bible, for the supply of Mary Smith, a little girl of ten years of age, who has paid up the cost-price. This interesting child had been long very anxious for a Bible; but her parents, who are honest but extremely poor cottagers, were unable to afford the money. Mary often brought the Collector sixpence at a time, and once brought a shilling. On being asked how she had obtained so much, it appeared that she rose every morning by five o'clock, in order to collect violets and other early spring flowers, which she made up in bunches and sold in the market. This was her own spontaneous act, suggested by her earnest desire to obtain a Bible, which will be doubly valuable as the reward of her early industry.

To the Collector No. 7, a Pica Testament for the supply of John Simpson, a little orphan boy, who has paid up more than half the cost-price. He earned the money by going on errands; he is supported by the parish; and the Collector has very properly refused to take more from him, as he now wishes to lay by all his little savings to buy clothes. To the Collector No. 13, a Brevier Testament for Jane Williams, a servant in the family, who has been taught to read by the Collector, and cheerfully pays the cost-price.—Adjourned.

3. TREASURER'S BOOK.

This book may be of the same size as the Collecting Book, but should be ruled according to the following Specimen.

Specimen of the Treasurer's Book.

It will be perceived that the account is balanced quarterly, pursuant to the VIIth Rule. The Dr. side occupies one page; and the Cr. side that which is opposite.

SPECIMEN.

Dr. the Treasurer of the —— Juvenile Bible Association. Cr.

1819.		£. s. d.	1820.		£. s. d.
Nov. 15.	To Monthly Collection	4 . 17 . 9	Jan. 10.	By Collecting Books, &c. .	0 . 12 . 6
Dec. 13.	Do. Do.	3 . 12 . 6	17.	Auxiliary Society:	
1820.				for Bibles, &c. 2.2.10	
Jan. 17.	Do. Do.	5 . 7 . 3		for Genl. Object 11.2. 2	
					13 . 5 . 0
		13 . 17 . 6			13 . 17 . 6
Feb. 14.	To Monthly Collection	2 . 12 . 0	Apr. 17.	By Auxiliary Society:	
Mar. 13.	Do. Do.	3 . 4 . 2		for Bibles, &c. 2.5. 0	
Apr. 10.	Do. Do.	2 . 13 . 10		for Genl. Object, 6.5. 0	
					8 . 10 . 0
		8 . 10 . 0			8 . 10 . 0
May 15.	To Monthly Collection	6 . 16 . 3			

SECTION IV.

GENERAL REMARKS.

1. The preceding details afford sufficient evidence of the importance of Juvenile Associations, as auxiliary to the British and Foreign Bible Society. But in estimating their value, we may take still higher ground, and contemplate their influence on the minds of the rising generation. If it be desirable that the benevolent principle should unfold itself at an early age; that the practical tendency of Christianity should be impressed on the hearts, and illustrated by the conduct, of the young; and that an attachment to the Sacred Volume, and a reverence of its Divine Author, should be cultivated and encouraged in the bosom of infancy; it requires but little argument to convince every unprejudiced mind, that the

general establishment of these institutions would be productive of incalculable benefit; since it is impossible to imagine a measure better calculated to produce and extend these effects. Excluding all selfish considerations, it is a design of pure and unmixed charity in its best and widest range. The child who sacrifices some little personal indulgence in order to promote the circulation of the Bible, will be incited to read that Bible with increased diligence, and to ponder on its contents with greater attention. The very sacrifice will induce an examination of its object. The state of distant nations will become a subject of interest; and the privileges and blessings of our own be more justly appreciated. Nor is it an extravagant hope, that a sense of gratitude to the Source of all Good may be thus implanted in the youthful mind, —may

"Grow with its growth, and strengthen with its strength;"

and produce, in future days, the rich fruit of active piety and heartfelt peace.

2. When Juvenile Bible Associations are established in towns or villages, they should be frequently visited by one or more judicious members of the Auxiliary or Branch Committee. When they are instituted in schools, they should be under the superintendence of the heads of the seminary. Many young persons are supplied with pocket-money to an extent that frequently proves injurious; but it has been found, that the early habit of appropriating some portion of it to charitable purposes has counteracted this effect, and tended in no inconsiderable degree to form the future character on the basis of Christian benevolence.

3. Example has an immediate and powerful influence on the young; and happy would it be for our country and the world, were it attractive only when exhibited on the side of benevolence and virtue! The generous ardour of our British youth in this work of mercy excited, at an early period, a kindred feeling among their coëvals on the American continent, the first manifestations of which are thus described in the Report of the *Philadelphia* Bible Society for 1813:—

"It will be interesting to the Society to receive an account of a contribution to their funds, which, though it amounts to no more than one dollar and eighty-four cents. (rather more than six shillings), merits special commendation. It is the gift of a little girl; and was accompanied by the following letter from a respectable merchant of this city:—'The donor of this small sum is a dear little female, about six years old. She reads the Scriptures daily, and never omits morning and evening prayers. Some time last fall, she read, or heard read, an Address of the Society

Association of the Students at Princeton College.

on the importance of distributing the Bible. Her little heart seemed immediately impressed with the duty of saving her cents, to buy Bibles for the *Indians*. Ever since that period she has not spent one farthing of what her parents gave her as her accustomed weekly allowance. Her residence is in the country. During the last week she paid my family a visit, and brought the box with her treasure in her hands. My children took her several times to town; and, in order to try her, shewed her every thing the shops or fruit-stalls afforded, and asked her repeatedly whether she would not lay out her money for some of the articles which she saw. Her answer was, uniformly, that she would like to have many things she saw; but she would not spend the money that was to buy Bibles for the Indians. I requested her to take the money home: she seemed affected, and thought I did not like the trouble of disposing of it.'—How easily can GOD touch the heart, and multiply streams of liberality to replenish our funds! When He gives the word, even children shall hasten with their little offerings to his altar; and, by their zeal, chide the sluggishness of age in the discharge of an important duty."

After announcing the receipt of one hundred dollars from a society recently formed in Princeton College, New Jersey, and designated "The Bible Society of Nassau Hall," the report states—

"The manner in which this last society originated deserves to be related. It affords a pleasing instance of good educed out of evil, by the superintending influence of a wise and holy Providence. The establishment of this society was the result of a gross indignity offered to the Bible, and was intended by the students as an expression of their abhorrence of the crime. They have associated with a view to distribute the holy scriptures in the American army and navy; and likewise copies in their original languages to suitable persons unable to buy them. Of this society most of the students in that College are members."

In their address to the public, these noble-minded young men observe, "that a desire to manifest their sense of the infinite value of revealed truth, and the high esteem they have for the Bible which contains that truth, was among the causes which led to the formation of their society." Well might the Committee of the New-York Bible Society remark on this occurrence,—"What an edifying example is here exhibited to the rising generation, when they who are to constitute the hope and the ornament of their country, thus glorify the Giver of *every good and every perfect gift!*"

At *New York*, and several other parts of the United States, Juvenile Bible Associations have been established; and at *Quebec*, a similar institution has afforded considerable aid to the Auxiliary Society of that city.

4. Nor is it in the Western hemisphere alone that this bright example has been followed. Even on the shores of the Black Sea and of the Baltic, and among the mountains of Switzerland, the generous flame has been kindled.

"At *Odessa*," says Dr. Paterson, "the boys in the Lyceum united among themselves, and collected 130 rubles for the Bible Society in that

place; and, on delivering the contribution, requested that they might be allowed to form an Auxiliary among themselves, and that some of the directors might have a seat in the Committee, that they might be regularly acquainted with the progress of a cause in which they take so deep an interest. This was permitted; and a letter was ordered to be written, to encourage them to persevere in the good cause in which they had engaged."

When Dr. Pinkerton visited Odessa, in December 1819, he attended a committee-meeting of this Juvenile Association; relative to which he observes,—

"I was peculiarly pleased to observe the order and instructive manner in which the business was transacted. The Secretary, a fine-looking boy of about nine years of age, read the Minutes of their last meeting, and presented to the Committee the papers which had been received since that period. The Treasurer then laid before us the account of their last year's subscriptions. A petition on behalf of eight poor boys, scholars in the Lyceum, who were unable to purchase Testaments for themselves, was next read, and granted. The Association consists of *eighty-four* members, and is under the special direction of the archimandrite Theophilus, principal preceptor of the Lyceum."

One of the most interesting Juvenile Associations on the continent of Europe is that formed at *Gothenburgh*, in Prince Oscar's School for Soldiers' Children. Its establishment was the spontaneous act of the children themselves, in consequence of the deep impression produced in their minds by the occasional addresses of the Rev. Mr. Rahmn, one of the Chaplains of the Royal Regiment of Artillery. In his Report he observes, that he interspersed his addresses with anecdotes of children who loved their Bible better than their play. The children desired his countenance and help, in order to form themselves into a Bible Society; intending, under his guidance, to distribute Bibles and Testaments gratis among the poor people. The offer was received by him with delight, and rules were drawn up for them accordingly. The Report further states, that twenty-eight children began this good work; that it speedily increased to sixty; that their minister, Mr. Rahmn, is their President and Treasurer; and their sub-schoolmaster, the Secretary; and that the Committee for the time being consists of six boys. In further reference to this important Juvenile Society, it has been subsequently reported, that their funds employed for the purchase of Bibles and Testaments consisted, on the 28th of December 1815, of 138 rix-dollars, the number of subscribing children one hundred and six, and ninety-eight adults; and that in consequence of the admission of the latter, the Committee now consisted of twelve members, six children and six adults.

From *Zurich*, the amiable and excellent Mr. Gesner thus writes:—

"Last week I had a great treat, at a visit which I paid to the girls' school: I addressed the children on the Bible in general, and then stated

Association of the young Nobility in Moscow.

what pains were taken to supply the poor with it. In England, I said, even little children, like you, [the school consists of children between six and ten years,] have contributed to this purpose; should you like to do the same? Joy brightened all their little countenances into smiles; and, at the next visit, every one brought me her little boon, the whole of which amounted to thirty-five florins.* Their number was sixty; many of whom must have given their all."

And the secretary of the *Frankfort* Bible Society, in a more recent communication, reports as follows:—

"Desirous of calling the attention of the public, especially that of the more respectable and opulent, to the concerns of the Bible Society, we determined to print an address, and to distribute it from house to house. No sooner had this address been published, than its good effects were visible. A copy found its way into the orphan-house, and one of the teachers gave it to an orphan boy to read at prayer-time to the rest of the children in the hall. As soon as they heard of what had been done for the cause of the Bible by poor orphan children in London, they exclaimed, with one voice, 'We must follow this example!' and immediately a little Association was formed of seventy boys and thirty-eight girls, which produced, from their small savings, of three to six kreutzers, a contribution of eighteen florins, and twelve kreutzers."†

While it is delightful to behold the generous zeal thus manifested by the pupils of the Lyceum at Odessa, the soldiers' children of Sweden, the little school-girls of Zurich, and the poor orphans of Frankfort, it is peculiarly gratifying to find that the example has extended to that class of society which should ever lead the van in the march of Christian benevolence. The ardour and liberality of the young nobility of Russia, as described in the following communication from the secretary of the Moscow Bible Society, may well incite their British cotemporaries in the higher walks of life to similar exertion:—

"A number of noble youths in *Moscow* formed themselves into an Auxiliary Bible Association. They drew up a set of regulations for themselves, signed them, and commenced raising subscriptions to promote the object of their Association. In a very short time, these benevolent youths collected a very considerable sum (2000 roubles, as their first contribution), which they presented to the Treasurer, and prayed that it might be put into the treasury of the Moscow Bible Society."

In reviewing these striking evidences of interest manifested by the young in the circulation of the Scriptures, we may well regard them as some pledge, that they will make this sacred volume the guide of their youth; and thus, through the infinite mercy of HIM from whom it proceeds, find it the support of their riper years, and their strong and unfailing consolation in the approach of death.

* About four pounds sterling. † About two pounds sterling.

CHAP. VI.

MARINE BIBLE SOCIETIES & ASSOCIATIONS.

"THEY THAT GO DOWN TO THE SEA IN SHIPS, THAT DO BUSINESS IN GREAT WATERS; THESE SEE THE WORKS OF THE LORD, AND HIS WONDERS IN THE DEEP." *PSALM* CVII. 23, 24.

"IN THAT DAY SHALL MESSENGERS GO FORTH FROM ME IN SHIPS." *EZEK.* XXX. 9.

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS.

WHOEVER attentively considers the peculiar situation of Great Britain, her extensive commerce and numerous colonies, must be convinced of the importance of that part of the system on which we are now about to enter. According to the Census of 1811, the number of seamen employed on board registered merchant vessels, was at least one hundred thousand; and if to these we add the crews of foreign ships resorting to the ports of Great Britain and Ireland, we may safely estimate the aggregate at one hundred and thirty thousand. The question that naturally arises from this simple statement, in reference to the subject before us, is, Whether such a numerous and interesting body of valuable men should be excluded, as objects or agents, in the mighty scheme of benevolence which has attracted the affections of all classes and denominations in our country?

This question derives additional importance from the peculiar *character* of seamen. Open and ingenuous in their disposition, warm and generous in their feelings, and too often careless and improvident in their habits; many of them are the dupes of artifices against which they cannot guard, or the victims of temptations, with which they have neither the strength nor the inclination to contend. Generally speaking, *no* means are provided for their religious instruction when on board; the few books with which they are supplied are not calculated to instil or to confirm correct principles; and if Religion be not contemned, it is too frequently treated as a matter with which *they* have no concern: and yet it is a

remarkable fact, that in no body of individuals can you find more striking instances of firm and decided piety, of gratitude for kindness, and of a willingness to receive instruction. Whatever be the faults of a British sailor, he is rarely a hypocrite: you see him as he is; and to secure his attention and respect, it is only necessary to convince him that you have his interest at heart.

Extensive as was this field, and favorable as is the soil, it is a matter of astonishment, that measures were not devised at a more early period for bringing it under cultivation. This appears the more remarkable, when we reflect, that an admirable Institution—the Naval and Military Bible Society, established in the year 1780—had been engaged for more than thirty years in supplying the seamen of our ships of war with the holy scriptures, and had received the most unequivocal evidence of the happy effects of their distribution. It might naturally be supposed, that, by an easy extension of the plan, the merchant service could be included in the naval department of this valuable society; but its conductors found the sphere of action, originally prescribed, sufficiently large and arduous; and until the winter of 1812, no means appear to have been adopted for exciting a general interest in favour of the object of the Bible Society, among this numerous and important class of our fellow subjects.*

SECTION I.

ORIGIN AND PROGRESS OF MARINE SOCIETIES AT SEA-PORTS.

1. Towards the close of the year 1812, the author had occasion to visit some merchant vessels lying in the Thames; and the result of his casual inquiries induced a belief, that an unexpected and deplorable dearth of the holy scriptures existed among the British and Foreign sailors resorting to the port of London. In order to ascertain the fact, eleven ships were indiscriminately visited by him, and only *one* Bible found, and this on board a *Swedish* vessel. A subsequent and more extensive investigation followed; which led to a conviction,

* It would be unjust, in connexion with this object, to omit the name of the Honourable Lady Grey, to whose ardent piety and indefatigable zeal many thousands of our seamen are indebted for their possession of the holy scriptures. A more distinct allusion to the extraordinary exertions of this inestimable Lady will be found in Chapter VII.

that, of the ships that entered the Thames, *not one in twenty* was furnished with a Bible. In pursuing this investigation, more than three hundred vessels were visited; and in no instance whatever were the inquiries treated with disrespect. The seamen appeared, indeed, surprised at these unwonted questions; but many of them expressed their grateful sense of the motive by which they were prompted, and declared their willingness to contribute towards the purchase of Bibles and Testaments.

With the assistance of the late Mr. BENJAMIN NEALE—a man whose memory is endeared by numerous evidences of ardent benevolence and genuine piety—a plan was prepared, and submitted to the Committee of the Southwark Auxiliary Bible Society, by which it was unanimously adopted. Copies were subsequently transmitted to the Committees of the City of London, Blackheath, and East-London Auxiliary Societies; and having received their cordial approbation, the first meeting of the THAMES UNION BIBLE COMMITTEE was held on the 21st of June 1813. This society was composed of the secretaries and four representatives from each of the above-named Auxiliaries; and a temporary fund was raised, by a transfer, from the respective committees, of one tenth of the privilege to which they were severally entitled from the Parent Institution. Nearly twenty depositories were established on both banks of the Thames, from London Bridge to Woolwich, which were supplied with Bibles and Testaments in the several European languages hereafter specified, for sale to Mariners, at an agreed scale of prices, averaging about one half the cost-price. At the request of the Committee, an "*Address to Mariners*,"* explanatory of the object in view, and intended to direct their attention to the sacred records, was prepared by the author, and published in English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, German, Dutch, and Danish. A framed notice, containing the words "BIBLES FOR SAILORS," in each of these languages, was placed in a conspicuous part of every depository; and the Committee secured a regular channel of distribution for the address, through the liberal assistance of a gentleman residing at Gravesend, whose official duty it is to visit every vessel which enters the port. A list of the depositories was annexed to the address; and sailors were thus informed where they might be promptly and cheaply supplied with the holy scriptures.

In addition to this general outline of the plan of the Thames

* This Address forms No. XI. of the Appendix.

Union Committee, it appears desirable to insert the Code of By-Laws, by which their proceedings were regulated.

BY-LAWS *of the* THAMES UNION BIBLE COMMITTEE.

I. The Committee shall meet at the Three-Tuns Tavern, Southwark, on the *second* Thursday in January, March, May, July, September, and November, at six o'clock in the evening precisely; and five members shall be a quorum.

II. As soon after six o'clock as a quorum is present, the chair shall be taken, and the business commenced.

III. The chair shall be taken by the Treasurer, or, in his absence, by such member of the Committee as those who are present may elect.

IV. The order of proceeding shall be—

1. To read the Minutes of the preceding meeting, and to dispose of any business arising therefrom.
2. To call for a *written* Report from each District Committee; such Report to be taken into consideration, and to be received if approved.
3. To receive the Treasurer's Report, and any official communication which the Secretary may have to make.—After which, fresh propositions shall be taken into consideration.

V. The Committee shall be divided into the four following District Committees; to each of which a Secretary shall be appointed; viz.

1. Southwark,	3. Blackheath,
2. City of London,	4. East London:

which shall severally consist of the members deputed by these societies respectively.

VI. Each District Committee shall meet at least once in two months, and prepare a Report to the General Committee; which Report shall specify,

1. The stock of Bibles and Testaments at *each* depository within the district, and the number sold since the last Report, specifying the descriptions and amount received.
2. Any interesting facts or observations arising out of their inquiries at the depositories.
3. The names and address of all persons who have consented to open new depositories.
4. The amount of any subscriptions received for the purposes of this Committee, with the names and address of the contributors.

VII. Each District Committee shall take charge of, and superintend, the depositories situated within the bounds of that Auxiliary Society which they represent.

VIII. Each District Committee shall frequently visit the several depositories under their care, to inspect the state of the books; and, should any case appear to require it, they shall visit those mariners who have been supplied with the holy scriptures, and report the result.

IX. Each District Committee shall have the power of giving orders on the Secretary for such Bibles and Testaments as may be required by the depositories; and they shall arrange the proportion and the mode of *gratuitous* distribution.

X. No *new* business shall be taken into consideration after eight o'clock.

The numerous applications at the depositories speedily and amply confirmed the melancholy estimate which originally

Beneficial effects of this establishment.

prompted the formation of this establishment; while they convinced the Committee, that the funds placed at their disposal were utterly inadequate to the increasing demand. The inability of *foreign* seamen to *purchase* copies of the holy scriptures, even at the very reduced scale of prices adopted by the Committee, was evident at an early period, particularly among the crews of Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, and Greek ships; and it therefore became necessary to arrange some mode, by which the requisite supply of Bibles and Testaments for *gratuitous* distribution might be obtained, without encroaching on the annual income of the four Auxiliary Societies beyond the amount of their original agreement. The Thames Union Bible Committee naturally looked with filial confidence to the Parent Institution; and a liberal grant of Testaments in foreign languages was immediately made by the British and Foreign Bible Society, for the gratuitous supply of those destitute strangers. That they were most gratefully received and duly appreciated, the following anecdote from the Records of the Society will testify:—

"The crew of a large Portuguese ship, consisting of nearly fifty persons of the Romish persuasion, had applied for, and been supplied with, Testaments from one of the depositories: the ship proceeded to the Brazils; but on her return to England was totally wrecked near Portland, the crew escaping with great difficulty. They proceeded to London; and, shortly after their arrival, went, *accompanied by their Chaplain*, to the gentleman who kept the depository, to whom they told their melancholy tale; adding, that though they had lost every thing, even their clothes, they regretted most the loss of their Testaments, and earnestly entreating a fresh supply; which was, of course, cheerfully granted."

The following instance will prove that the influence of the sacred volume on the minds of *British* seamen is not less evident nor less powerful:—

"A pilot, residing in Southwark, called on one of the Committee for the purpose of purchasing a Bible. After he had obtained the wished-for object, he stated, that within the last few days he had witnessed two remarkable instances of the good effects of reading the holy scriptures. He had been engaged to conduct two vessels, successively, to the Downs; and being struck with the astonishing quietude and good order on board, he was anxious to know the cause: this he speedily discovered to be the same on board both ships: the morning's toil commenced, and the evening's labour concluded, by the respective captains reading a portion of Scripture to the assembled crew, accompanied with prayer to the Almighty Father for his blessing and watchful care over them. From the Docks to the Downs he declared he did not hear a single oath nor profane expression; and before he resigned his charge, he could not help acknowledging to the respective masters, that in no instance whatever had he beheld the duties of a sea-faring life so well and faithfully performed."

These and many similar instances of beneficial effects

cheered and animated the Committee. Nor were they without some gratifying proofs that the example of London stimulated the out-ports to similar exertion. In the year 1814, the Committees of the Newcastle and North-Shields Bible Societies adopted the plan; and the TYNE UNION COMMITTEE was formed and organized on the model of that in the metropolis. An "Address to Ship Owners" was drawn up, and liberally circulated; wherein it was stated, that a partial survey of the ships entering the River Tyne had tended to corroborate the melancholy fact, that not more than one in twenty was furnished with a Bible. About the same period this important subject was brought under the consideration of the Committees in other sea-ports of England and Scotland; and it was evident that a growing interest was felt, which would ultimately manifest itself in the general adoption of the system, with such improvements as observation and experience might suggest.

It will be recollected, that the Thames Union Committee was composed of the secretaries and four members of the respective Auxiliary Societies which surround the port of London; and it will be readily believed, that the individuals selected for this interesting duty were not the least active and efficient conductors of those societies. The time and attention which these gentlemen could devote to this extraordinary engagement were consequently limited; and, in proportion to the extending claims, a conviction was gradually acquired, that some alteration in the constitution of the society was indispensably necessary. This persuasion was strengthened by their inability to provide for that *personal* and systematic investigation which is essential to success; and by the inadequacy of the funds placed at their disposal, to meet the exigencies of the case. In reference to this latter subject it should be observed, that a circular letter had been addressed to the Auxiliary Societies in the southern and midland counties of England, explaining the nature of the institution, and soliciting assistance. This appeal was promptly recognised by several Committees, and by none more liberally than that of the CAMBRIDGE Auxiliary. From the generous aid extended by the Parent Institution, it might appear that this was the source to which the Managers of the Thames Union Committee would have looked with confidence; but they felt that they had no right to encroach further on the general funds, before an appeal was made to that numerous and opulent body of individuals, the ship-owners of London, whose interests and duty were equally concerned in the object.

These and similar considerations occupied the Committee for several months; and towards the close of the year 1817, it was determined to adopt measures for establishing a general and independent society, on a scale sufficiently extensive to meet the pressing exigencies of the case. The practicability of the design had been fully demonstrated, and its beneficial tendency and effects had been decidedly manifested; the Committee had therefore the strongest ground of experience and observation on which to rest their claim. They felt that the object had become too important to continue merely as an appendage to other institutions; and

"they resolved to call together some known friends of their undertaking, with a view to lay before them the destitute condition of the objects of their benevolence, and to obtain their counsel as to the best means of more effectually discharging the obligations of the community towards them,—of paying its debt of gratitude and justice to these invaluable instruments of its commercial greatness." After many meetings, and much anxious deliberation, it was the opinion of the gentlemen who were thus convened, that measures should forthwith be taken to establish in London an Auxiliary Bible Society, for the supply of British merchant ships with the holy scriptures;—and that this society, while more immediately occupied in supplying the wants of the seamen belonging to the port of London, should also endeavour to procure the formation of similar institutions in every out-port of the empire."* How far this design has been realised, will appear in the sequel.

To preserve the narrative unbroken, the progress of the "Thames Union Committee" has been traced to the period of its dissolution, in consequence of the establishment of the Merchant-Seamen's Society. But before we enter on the consideration of the latter, our attention is claimed, in order of time, by other kindred and important institutions.

It is very desirable, in order to avoid confusion, that the designation of "Marine Bible Association" should be confined *exclusively* to those formed on board ships; and that the term "Society" should distinguish those established on shore for the supply of seamen. With this little exception, the institution which next demands our consideration merits unqualified praise; and only requires to be more generally known, in order to incite to similar exertion throughout the sea-ports of the kingdom.

2. The WHITBY *Marine Bible Association* was instituted in the beginning of the year 1816. The Committee attribute much of the success which has attended their proceedings to

* Address of the Committee of the Merchant-Seamen's Auxiliary Bible Society; London, 1818.

the generous co-operation of the Whitby Auxiliary Bible Society, and the liberality of Captain SCORESBY, of the *Mars*, Greenland ship, who presented a munificent donation of fifty guineas in aid of the funds of the infant establishment.—The following are the

LAWS *and* REGULATIONS *of the* WHITBY MARINE BIBLE ASSOCIATION.

I. This society shall be designated "The Whitby Marine Bible Association, for promoting the circulation of the Scriptures among the seamen belonging to this town or visitants to this port, and for employing them as agents to convey this sacred treasure to those parts of the world which they may visit"—in the fulfilment of these objects, co-operating, through means of the Whitby Auxiliary Society, with the British and Foreign Bible Society.

II. Every subscriber of one penny per week or upwards shall be a member of this society.

III. The business of the institution shall be conducted by a president, (who shall also be treasurer,) two secretaries, and a committee of twelve members, any five of whom shall be competent to act.

IV. The members of the Committee of the Whitby Auxiliary Bible Society shall have the privilege of attending and voting at the committee meetings of this association.

V. The Committee shall meet, once every month, on some day and place to be fixed on by themselves.

VI. It shall be a particular part of the business of the Committee, either themselves or by means of agents, to visit the ships in this harbour, whether they belong to this or any other port, with a view to their being supplied with Bibles, and to promote, when it is practicable, the establishment of Associations on board the vessels.

VII. All members of Associations on board of ships belonging to this port shall be considered as members of this Association; and all presidents and other office-bearers of such Associations shall be entitled to attend and vote at the meetings of the Committee.

VIII. Such part of the funds of this Association as may not be required for its own immediate objects, if any, shall be annually given to the Whitby Auxiliary Bible Society, with a view to aid the funds of the British and Foreign Bible Society.

IX. The annual meeting of the Association shall be held on the second Tuesday of February, in each year, when a Committee shall be chosen, the accounts presented, and the proceedings of the foregoing year reported.

The mode of distribution originally adopted by the Committee was, to send on board every ship requiring a supply, a few copies for the use of the crew, and a more considerable number for sale, under the care of the captain; to whom a paper containing printed directions, and a form for returns, was addressed,—Specimens of which are subjoined. But owing to the protracted returns which they received, they have found it expedient to restrict their issues, by confining them to these captains, and others, who purchase copies for sale and distribution; except in reference to the Greenland ships. With regard to these, the Committee still adhere to their former practice, and entrust their captains, as before, with Bibles and Testaments for sale; their usually quick return not

occasioning the same difficulties as with vessels bound on other foreign voyages. This plan is extremely simple; and in those cases where the ships belong to the port at which the society is formed, it is well calculated to effect the object. For every parcel of Bibles and Testaments sent on board, the captain signs a printed receipt, of which the following is a Specimen;—the words in italics being inserted by the Secretary.

"No. 117. Whitby, 17*th August*, 1819.

RECEIVED of the Committee of the Whitby Marine Bible Association, for sale among the Crew of the Ship *Henry*, or others, *Twelve* Minion and *Eight* Nonpareil Bibles; together with *Twenty* Brevier English, and *Ten* Foreign Testaments.

John Thornton, Master."

A paper, of which the following is a copy, is at the same time given to the captain:—

DIRECTIONS TO THE CAPTAINS OF SHIPS,

for the Distribution of the Bibles and Testaments committed to their Charge by the Committee of the WHITBY MARINE BIBLE ASSOCIATION.

1. The captain is desired to dispose of the Bibles and Testaments among his crew, at the following prices:* viz.

	s.	d.
Minion or larger Bible	4	9
Nonpareil, or smaller ditto	1	0
Foreign Testaments (if any)	2	0
English Testaments	1	0

2. Provided the captain finds he has more Bibles and Testaments committed to his care than are requisite for the use of his own crew, he shall be at liberty to dispose of the surplus, at the above prices, to the captain or crew of any ship with which he may meet who are in want of Bibles.

3. The Foreign Testaments (if any) may be disposed of to any person acquainted with the language, at 2*s.* each, or as near that price as can be obtained.

4. If any of the Bibles or Testaments remain unsold after the termination of the voyage, the captain is desired to return them to the depository at Messrs. Clark and Medd's, or to either of the secretaries of the Association; together with an account of the money he may have received in return for the Bibles sold.

5. It is recommended to the captain to establish, where it is practicable, an Association on board of his ship, agreeable to the plan suggested in the circular "Address to Owners, Commanders, and Mariners."†

* The author would respectfully suggest the advantage of inserting the cost-prices, and giving a discretionary authority to the respective captains to sell, if necessary, at a specified abatement.

† See Section V. of this Chapter.

Form of a Captain's Account of Sales, &c.

On the corresponding half sheet of this paper (which is of octavo size) the form of the Return is ruled, according to the following

SPECIMEN.

Account of Bibles and Testaments.

Date.	RECEIVED.	B. large	B. small	T. Eng.	T. For.	Amount at Cost Prices.	Date.	DELIVERED.	B. large	B. small	T. Eng.	T. For.	Sold for.
1819.						£. s. d.	1819.						£. s. d.
Aug.17.	*From the Whitby Marine Bible Association.*	12	8	20	10	9. 6 .10	*Aug.24.*	*John Smithson*	1				—. 4. 9
							Sept. 7.	*Ship Dublin* ..	4	2	6		1 . 9.—
							... 13.	*James Lewis*..		1			—. 3.—
							...	*Samuel Lee*...			1		—. 1.—
							Oct. 9.	*Ship Carlotta*.				5	—.10.—
								Sold....	5	3	7	5	2 . 7 . 9
								On hand	7	5	13	5	
									12	8	20	10	

Returned the above, and paid 2l. 7s. 9d. to the Secretary of the Whitby Marine Bible Association.

J. Thornton.

During the four years, ending February 1820, this Society has distributed 824 Bibles and Testaments; and collected 237*l.* 14*s.* 4½*d.*, of which the sum of 27*l.* 1*s.* has been voted to the Auxiliary for the General Object of the Parent Institution.

In their Annual Report for 1819, the Committee state, that—

"a large increase of subscribers has been obtained: so that the amount of annual subscriptions, exclusive of donations, exceeds that of any former year. Of the donations received this year, several were collected by Capt. Potter, among his friends at or near Stokesley; and one donation of a guinea, communicated by Capt. Scoresby, was contributed by fourteen Shetland seamen, belonging to the Fame: which instance of liberality your Committee think proper to notice, not only as a stimulus to others, but as a pleasing indication of the growing interest which seamen feel in the cause of the Bible."

The following extract from the same Report forms an appropriate conclusion to this sketch of the constitution and proceedings of this interesting society: the language is certainly strong; but it is a melancholy fact that it is too generally applicable:—

Hull Marine Bible Association.

"Our sailors have been complained of by foreigners, as exhibiting a most lamentable specimen of the British character: and no wonder; for they have been left too long, to wander in the darkness of ignorance, to riot in the excesses of vice, and to sport with their immortal interests on the very brink of an eternal world. If merchants have had cause to complain of the profligacy of seamen, surely they themselves are to blame: there is a Book that would have taught them, but that Book has never been given: they have denied them the means of instruction, then complained of their ignorance: they have kept the light of Heaven from their minds, then wondered at their superstition: they have condemned their profligacy, yet never warned them of the great evil of sin, or pointed out the dreadful consequences of their crimes. Surely the language of the sacred moralist is of extensive, yea of universal application, '*Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do it;*' for, '*to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.*'" *

3. A Marine Bible Association, on the plan of that at Whitby was established at *Hull*, in February 1817. The prudence, animation, and perseverance that have characterized this society, and the success which has attended their judicious measures, entitle it to particular commendation. Previously to its formation, the plan was laid before the principal Ship Owners, and communicated to a number of respectable Masters of Vessels; and, as it met with their approbation and concurrence, no time was lost in carrying the design into execution. The General Meeting was attended by 700 or 800 seafaring men, who conducted themselves with the greatest propriety, and listened with the most evident interest and feeling to the addresses which were made to them. Several Owners immediately subscribed on behalf of their respective ships, as did a considerable number of Masters, who likewise undertook to superintend the affairs of the society on board their vessels.

Within six months after the establishment of this Association, 1133 Bibles and Testaments were consigned to various captains for sale; and the first Master from whom intelligence was received on the subject, reported, that he had disposed of his whole stock previously to his reaching the Orkney Islands, and within seven days of his leaving Hull; and that he was unable to afford to many of his crew the supply they desired.

In their first Annual Report, the Committee state—

"In the course of the year, 720 Bibles, 207 Testaments, or, in the whole, nearly one thousand copies of the sacred writings, have been furnished to different vessels from the stock of this Association, and *sold* to the seamen. It is needless, after this statement, to say that the Masters have been found

* This Association has supplied many *Fishermen* on the coast with Bibles and Testaments, by sale and gratuitously; an example worthy of general imitation.

Proceedings and results of the Hull Association.

extremely ready to promote the objects of this institution: but it is gratifying to add, from the report of the Masters, that the seamen were generally well disposed to avail themselves of the opportunity of procuring copies of the Scriptures, and that in many instances they were observed, both singly and in groupes, making a proper use of them, at times of leisure. Several Masters of fishing-ships state, that they could have disposed of more copies than they took out; and one of them, who, owing to particular circumstances, had on board the stock designed for the unfortunate ship 'London,'* sold the whole of them, as well as his own stock. It is to be observed, however, that as it was thought necessary to sell the books to the men at the *reduced prices* of the Bible Society, (which are much below the *cost-prices*,) a loss of nearly 60*l.* has been sustained upon the books thus disposed of. To counterbalance this loss, as well as to defray incidental expenses, and thus to prevent the Association's becoming a burden, instead of an aid, to the Parent Society, two measures have been resorted to. One is, that of soliciting subscriptions from the owners of the ships:—and the Committee are happy to state, that subscriptions of one guinea each have been put down for forty-three fishing ships, and of half-a-guinea each for twenty-six merchant vessels; and further subscriptions, they hope, will be obtained. The other measure, which is to be considered as a primary object in view, is the formation of Minor or Branch Associations on board the several vessels, under the superintendence of the Masters, for the reception of free subscriptions, of one penny a-week each, from such of the seamen as, being themselves furnished with Bibles, may be willing to contribute that sum during their respective voyages, for the pious and benevolent object of putting the sacred scriptures into the hands of those who may not otherwise have the means of obtaining them. This measure has hitherto been carried into effect on board only three vessels: but the Committee trust that the general establishment of such Branch Associations will furnish a leading feature in the next year's Report."

The hope thus expressed has been in a good degree realised. At their second Annual Meeting in February 1819, the Committee were enabled to state—

I. That Bible Associations had been established on board *nine* ships, which had produced the sum of 15*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*

II. That the total number of Bibles and Testaments supplied to different vessels was 1581, *the whole of which had been sold to the crews*, with the exception of fifty copies lost on board the ships Three Brothers and Manique.

III. That the cost-price of these 1581 copies was 336*l.* 17*s.* 10*d.*; and that this amount had not only been discharged, by means of the produce of the sales, and of free contributions and associations on board ships, but that a balance of 27*l.* 5*s* 7*d.* had been presented to the Treasurer of the Hull Auxiliary Society, for the general object of the Parent Institution.—And,

IV. That the amount of incidental expenses was only 4*l.* 12*s.* 2*d.*

* The *London* perished, with all hands, in a storm among mountains of ice.

Judicious measures adopted by the Committee.

At this Annual Meeting, the following important RESOLUTIONS were unanimously adopted:—

1. That it be particularly recommended to the Committee for the ensuing year, to wait upon such Ship Owners as have not subscribed for their respective vessels, to solicit their subscriptions; and to endeavour to extend the benefits of the institution to the vessels employed in the General Merchant Service, as well as to all the ships engaged in the Whale Fisheries.

2. That the Masters of vessels be particularly requested to form, and undertake the management of Associations on board their respective ships, according to the simple plan pointed out to them by the Bible Society.

3. That Mr. Curtis Bailey, Mr. John Collender, Mr. William Priest, and Mr. Christopher Reed, *having kindly offered their services*, be requested, with the aid of such other gentlemen as they can associate with them, to visit all vessels about to leave the port, to see that, if possible, none may sail without at least one copy of the Scriptures on board; and to induce each sailor, where it may be practicable, to furnish himself with a copy.

It appears by the Annual Report of this Association for 1820, that the total number of copies of the holy scriptures distributed within three years was 2047; and that after paying the full cost-price of the whole number, they had been enabled to appropriate 45*l.* 18*s.* 5*d.* as a free contribution to the funds of the British and Foreign Bible Society. The Committee conclude their Report by observing,

"That they have ample reason to be assured that the institution had been productive of good. Through its means more than two thousand copies of the Scriptures have been put into the hands of our seamen. They have *purchased* them; and in very many instances, there is reason to believe, make a good use of them. Nor are the opportunities of usefulness exhausted: they may easily be increased and extended: as it is hoped will appear, when measures, already resolved upon, shall be more completely carried into execution."

4. A similar institution was established at *Aberdeen* in February 1818; of the success of which the following extracts exhibit a gratifying evidence. In their first Report, presented only eight months after the formation of the Society, it is stated, that

"the Committee have purchased at the depository of the Auxiliary Society 216 Bibles and 60 Testaments, which have been partly sold to mariners on board Greenland and trading vessels, at the standard reduced prices; and partly entrusted to ship-masters, to be sold in like manner to their respective crews. The amount of subscriptions and sales received by the Treasurer is upwards of 95*l.*; which, after deducting the sum paid for Bibles, leaves a balance of 30*l.*—which sum has been remitted, in terms of the Regulations, to the Treasurer of the Aberdeen Auxiliary Society."

In a letter recently received from one of the secretaries of this Association, he observes:—

"We have already circulated upwards of 900 copies of the holy scriptures. We entrust to the respective captains such a number as we think

they may dispose of during their voyage, varying from six to twenty-four to each captain. In general they are disposed of; and many captains report that they could have sold thrice the number:—*this was the case with all the Greenland captains last year.* Associations are frequently formed on board during the voyage, and from three to six pounds collected in aid of the institution. Bibles are offered to every vessel leaving this port; and in several cases which have come under our notice, the effects have been highly beneficial. *Seamen are uniformly disposed to purchase Bibles, if their captains wish them to do so.* In the ships connected with this port, both captains and seamen are gradually becoming more attached to the object, inasmuch as we have an increasing demand for the holy scriptures."

5. From the preceding details it will be evident, that no insuperable difficulties present themselves in the establishment of Marine Bible Societies. But there is one remarkable fact in reference to the three instances adduced, which merits distinct consideration. We have here a striking proof that these institutions are not only capable of attaining their immediate object, but of rendering no inconsiderable aid to the funds of the Parent Society. The aggregate number of copies distributed by the Whitby, Hull, and Aberdeen Associations is nearly *four thousand*:—for these they have paid the full amount at *cost-prices*, and, in addition, have remitted upwards of *one hundred pounds* for the general object.

It will also be observed, that these Societies adopt the principle of *distribution by sale*; to which they have strictly adhered, except in those very few cases where extreme poverty justified the deviation from their established practice. It is indeed difficult to find any class of our labouring population by which the requisite sacrifice is more lightly felt than by seamen: the greatest difficulty is, to excite an interest in favour of the object; and this can be accomplished only by the personal attention of the individual members of the Committee, or by agents properly qualified for the important service. For awakening this interest, no means hitherto devised are so efficient as Bible Associations on board the respective ships; and to this part of the plan the constant care of every Marine Committee should be directed.

6. There is reason to believe that a few other Societies for supplying seamen with Bibles existed previous to the London Merchant-Seamen's Society; but it has been found impossible to obtain particulars of their proceedings.

It would be unjust, however, in a work of this nature, to pass over in silence the exertions made by the Committee of the BISHOP-WEARMOUTH &c. Auxiliary Society, in reference to the supply of seamen with the holy scriptures. The subject was brought under

their consideration at an early period; but, owing to local and distressing circumstances, it was not until the summer of 1817 that measures were adopted for giving effect to the benevolent design. A Sub-Committee having been appointed for the express purpose, the members commenced their labours on the 4th of June,—a day peculiarly appropriate, as being that of the birth of our late venerable and lamented sovereign; whose declaration, that "he hoped to live to see the day when every poor child in his dominions should be able to read his Bible," entails a legacy of practical duty on his surviving subjects.

The mode of distribution adopted by this Committee is that of *gratuitous* supply; and certainly, *if* this be deemed expedient in any case, the plan pursued with respect to the Sunderland vessels is best calculated to qualify the attendant disadvantages. Boxes, judiciously contrived, with the word "BIBLE" painted in large letters on the front, and secured near the steerage of each vessel, are presented with the Bibles; and a label is affixed, declaratory of the grant, and specifying that "*in case of the sale of the ship, the Bible and box shall remain as a fixture.*" This inscription, it is observed by the Committee, "has been the means of preserving the Bible in one instance at least which came under notice." The ships supplied *are frequently revisited;* and the "reports of the Sub-Committee contain the most satisfactory accounts of the esteem in which the Bibles formerly distributed are holden, and of the grateful feelings with which every successive distribution of Bibles is received."

The total number of Bibles thus supplied to ships, from the 4th of June 1817 to the 21st of September 1819, is 220; at an expense to the Auxiliary Society of 84*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.*

Whether this mode be calculated to awaken an interest in the minds of seamen, and to secure the co-operation of their employers, are questions which the Committee have now had sufficient experience to decide. And its failure with respect to the attainment of the latter object, as inferred from the language of their Annual Reports, may probably suggest to the benevolent individuals concerned, the wisdom of assimilating their plans to those of the Whitby and Hull Societies. This alteration appears the more desirable, when we consider the high and important object of exciting in the minds of seamen an interest in the welfare of the whole human race. Where no personal sacrifice is called for, the evidence of this interest is at best ambiguous.

7. Among the few *individuals* whose exertions have been conspicuous in this particular sphere of Christian duty, there is one who deserves more especial notice:—this individual is Mr. *J. J. Beard,* of *Bristol.* His duty, as a Collector of one of the Bible Associations of that city, having led him into the neighbourhood of the shipping, he was induced, by his ardent desire to effect all the good in his power, to make some inquiry relative to the state of the seamen: and finding they

were in numerous instances destitute of the holy scriptures, he applied to the Association for leave to supply them with copies on the same terms as the inhabitants of his own district. Having obtained their cordial consent, he has, in the space of eighteen months, ending in April 1820, sold to the seamen in the port of Bristol no fewer than 2198 Bibles and Testaments, and paid the amount of his receipts, being *370l. 2s. 3d.* to the Auxiliary Society of that city. It may reasonably be expected, that the zealous and disinterested services of this benevolent individual will now find a wider range, as a Marine Bible Association has been recently established at Bristol, under very encouraging circumstances.

SECTION II.

LONDON MERCHANT-SEAMEN'S SOCIETY, &c.

1. Towards the close of 1817, those measures which have been already detailed in the preceding section, in reference to the Thames Union Committee, were sufficiently matured to induce the gentlemen concerned to prepare and circulate an Address explanatory of the object. This admirable Address places the subject in so clear a light, that no apology can be requisite for introducing the following extracts:—

"Upon an average, about five thousand vessels, of different descriptions, sail from the port of London every year. These measure upwards of one million of tons, and appear to be navigated by about sixty-five thousand men. But as some vessels make two or more voyages in the year, the seamen going annually from the port of London may be estimated at about forty-five thousand. It would be, perhaps, an unwarrantable calculation, to suppose that one-tenth part of this number are possessed of the Word of GOD, without which it can hardly be supposed that they should be acquainted with the doctrines and duties of our holy religion. But even on this estimate, not fewer than forty thousand of our seamen would still remain in a state of lamentable destitution of the means of religious knowledge, and consequently in a state of afflicting ignorance. The number of seamen, however, who sail from the port of London, do not constitute a third of the mercantile navy of Great Britain. The object of the proposed institution, therefore, is to provide Bibles for at least about 120,000 British seamen, now destitute of them.

"And here let not the peculiarity of their situation, and of their manner of life, be forgotten. They are necessarily deprived of many advantages of instruction enjoyed by persons who live regularly on shore. Once at sea, a seaman has no choice of associates; he is fixed to his shipmates, and thus, for the most part, secluded from any society but that of the profane and dissolute. The privilege of resorting with their families to the house of GOD, to listen to his word, and of uniting with the congregation of Christian worshippers in the services of prayer and praise, is in a great measure unknown to them. The sun of the sabbath generally arises to their view from beneath the same waste of waters with the light of a common day; and

their thoughts and duties seem to merge in the single object of guiding their vessel through the deep. It has been calculated that one half, or two thirds, of a sailor's life is thus spent on the ocean: and that, of the remainder, one half is supposed to be passed in foreign harbours, where no Christian instruction can in general be obtained. Under these unfavourable circumstances, it is scarcely to be expected, that, during the fragment of his time which he passes in his own land, the means of instruction, even if offered to him, should be eagerly embraced. In point of fact, they are generally neglected; and for this neglect, those who are even slightly acquainted with the force of habit, and the common principles of our nature, will not find it difficult to account. The seaman remains, therefore, for the most part, as ignorant of the things which accompany salvation, as if the will of GOD had never been revealed to man: and even the hardships of a sea-faring life, and the thousand perils peculiarly incident to his profession, instead of awakening his mind to serious reflection, too often produce in him, from the want of Christian instruction, a contrary effect, and lead him to dedicate almost every moment of his time, while on shore, to the most sordid, and debasing, and ruinous indulgences.

"With respect to some of the disadvantages which have been enumerated, it is obvious that we cannot remove them: they belong of necessity to a sea-faring life. But then these evils are not without the means of alleviation. Sailors often have at sea much time for reading. By the general diffusion of education, many of them are qualified thus to employ their time; and the disposition either to read for themselves, or to listen to others, is very prevalent among them. Unhappily, the few books to which they have access are often of the worst description. But may not their leisure hours, and their inclination for reading, be converted to a better account? Is it impossible to give a more profitable direction to their minds? Will they have no curiosity, if the means be afforded, to learn something of that GOD whose path is in the great waters, and whose wonders they behold in the deep? Is there nothing to interest them in the representation of their own state, and of the awful eternity to which they are hastening? Will they turn a deaf ear to the history of their Redeemer, to the hopes and promises, the invitations and threatenings, which involve their present peace and everlasting welfare? Is not the seaman, then, formed by the same Hand with ourselves? Is he not capable of being moved by the same feelings and affections? Does the volume of divine truth appeal so forcibly to all other men; and is he alone, by some law of creation, or by some hard condition of his lot, to be regarded as excluded from the common range of his Maker's bounty, and as inaccessible to the influence of his Word and Spirit? With the evidence before us of Pitcairn's Island—an island far removed from European civilization—where the descendants of a British seaman, who was happily possessed of a Bible, trained, by means of that blessed book, in the fear and love of GOD, are now exhibiting an example of piety which might well put even Britain to the blush;—with such an example before us, can we doubt for one moment that the Word of GOD is still capable, under every variety of circumstance and situation, of answering the high and ennobling purposes for which it was given to mankind?

"That sacred volume, it is the object of this Address to provide for the seamen who are employed in navigating our commercial marine. And should it succeed in that object, it may be reasonably hoped, of numbers among them, that, through the blessing of its Divine Author, the Bible may become their companion and guide through life; their consolation and support in every danger; the standard, as it were, under which they sail; the

anchor by which they hold amid the storms of this world; and the compass to direct them to that haven, where perils will no longer beset their course, nor disturb their enjoyment of rest and tranquillity for ever.

"Nor is it unimportant, on the present occasion, just to glance at the various classes of the community who have a direct and personal interest, exclusive of the paramount obligations attaching to them as Christians, in thus providing for the moral wants of this body of men. The owners of the vast mercantile marine of Great Britain, and the merchants, manufacturers, and traders of every description whose property is confided to the hazards of the deep, or whose prosperity is connected with foreign commerce, together with their numerous dependants; and the insurers of the almost incredible amount of merchandize and shipping entrusted to the care of British seamen; are all deeply interested in using their utmost exertions that those seamen should be raised from the degradation of their present acknowledged state of ignorance and profligacy, improvidence and insubordination; and that they should be taught principles calculated to render them pious, sober, and intelligent; faithful to their trust, and obedient to their superiors."

2. This address having been extensively circulated, a general meeting was convened on the 29th of January 1818, at the Mansion House, the Lord Mayor of London in the chair, when the "London Merchant-Seamen's Auxiliary Society" was established, "for the purpose of supplying British merchant ships with the holy scriptures," and subject to the following

Rules *and* Regulations.

I. That the Bibles and Testaments to be circulated by this society shall be without note or comment; and that those in the languages of the United Kingdom be of the authorised version.

II. That each subscriber of one guinea annually shall be a member of the society; and each subscriber of ten guineas at one time, a member for life.

III. That each subscriber of three guineas annually shall be a governor of the society; and each subscriber of twenty guineas at one time shall be a governor for life; and that governors be entitled to attend and vote at all meetings of the Committee.

IV. That the business of this society shall be conducted by a president, vice-presidents, treasurer, secretaries, and a committee, consisting of twenty-four other members, half of whom shall be members of the Established Church, and that five members constitute a quorum.

V. That all clergymen and other ministers making collections in behalf of the institution shall be members of this Society, with the privilege of attending and voting at the meetings of the committee.

VI. That the committee shall meet once every month, or oftener, on some day to be fixed by themselves.

VII. That a general meeting of the subscribers be held once, at least, in each year, when the accounts shall be presented, the proceedings of the past year stated, a new committee appointed, and a report agreed upon, to be printed under the direction of the committee.

VIII. That, in the formation of the new committee, such three-fourths of the other members who shall have most frequently attended the committee shall be re-eligible for the ensuing year.

Indifference of Ship-owners to the spiritual welfare of Seamen.

In addition to these Regulations, the following RESOLUTION was adopted at the general meeting:—

"That the Committee be instructed to take the earliest and most effectual measures for obtaining the patronage, contributions, and active co-operation of the various corporate bodies, and of all merchants, ship-owners, underwriters, tradesmen, ship-masters, and others connected with the trade or marine of the port of London: that the officers and crews of merchant ships be encouraged to form Bible Associations on a plan to be framed by the Committee: that it is expedient to encourage the formation of Branch Societies at the principal out-ports of the British empire; such Branch Societies, and their individual members, to be entitled to the same privileges from the Auxiliary Society as its members derive from the Parent Institution: and that immediate steps be taken, by opening a correspondence with the different out-ports, for giving effect to this Resolution."

3. A very limited degree of experience was sufficient to convince the Committee of the London Merchant-Seamen's Society, that the peculiar nature of the work in which they had engaged, demanded the application of extraordinary means. The plan of *Depositories* had been tried by the Thames Union Committee, on a scale that must have ensured success, had the *inclination to possess the sacred records* been prevalent among seamen. In addition to this, the Committee of the new society issued circular letters to the owners or ships' husbands of all vessels entering out at the Custom House, and to the captains of all such ships, soliciting their countenance and support, and proffering a supply of Bibles and Testaments on the most liberal terms. At their first annual meeting, they were compelled to report "the total and absolute failure of every effort made by them in this direction."

"The numerous letters which they circulated among the owners and masters of vessels did not produce a single application for Bibles at the Society's depository in London: and since the formation of the institution, to the 31st of December 1819, only twenty-one Bibles and thirty-nine Testaments have been sold there. So utterly inefficient, indeed, did this method of accomplishing the object of the society prove, that the Committee, after persevering in the experiment for upwards of three months, were at last induced to discontinue it."

Nor should this failure excite surprise, however it may occasion regret. The nature of that connexion which subsists between seamen and their employers, particularly in the port of London, is too transient and uncertain to create or cherish an interest, on the part of the latter, in the spiritual welfare of the former. The ship-owners of Great Britain are, as a body, remarkable for their attention to the personal comforts of the men; but it cannot be denied, that an indifference to those concerns which regard their eternal interests has been

long and lamentably prevalent. On the other hand, sailors, as has been already observed, too generally look upon religion as a matter with which *they* have no concern;—the BIBLE is a book of which they had seldom heard; and they required to have its inestimable value pointed out to them in a manner which they could understand. Here arose another difficulty—for sailors must be addressed *in their own way*. The observation may seem strange, but it is no less true, that few landsmen are qualified to gain the attention and awaken the interest of this singular but valuable race of men. To these combined causes may be attributed the failure of every measure founded on the presumption that seamen would *apply for Bibles*. It was therefore evident that an interest must be created in the minds of sailors in favour of the Bible. To effect this, it became necessary to select an individual as AGENT, whose knowledge of the peculiar character, manners, and habits of seamen qualified him for this particular service. In reference to this important subject, the Committee thus express themselves:—

"As vessels proceeding on foreign voyages generally bring up at Gravesend, for the purpose of obtaining their final clearance, it appeared to the Committee, that it would be highly important, indeed indispensable, with a view to the success of the institution, to station at that place an active and intelligent Agent, whose business it should be to visit all outward-bound ships, and to act, in supplying them with the Scriptures, under the general instructions of the Committee, according to the circumstances of each case. In *Lieutenant Cox*, of the Royal Navy, they had reason given them to expect the zeal, activity, intelligence, and discretion which the situation required; and they have not been disappointed. They were led to confide in his exertions, and he has fully justified their confidence."

As the Committee report, that "this plan has succeeded beyond their hopes," it appears necessary to enter more fully into its details; commencing with the

4. INSTRUCTIONS FURNISHED TO LIEUTENANT COX.

"I. It will be proper that you should make some provisional arrangements for a depôt, where the books in your possession may be safely kept, and conveniently arranged; and which may unite the advantages of forming a good look-out towards the river, and of being tolerably easy of access. It will be further necessary to engage the means of boarding outward-bound vessels with promptness and facility.

II. It will be your main business, for the present, to visit every ship destined on a foreign voyage, which may bring up at Gravesend, or stop there a sufficient time to admit of your boarding her; and to ascertain whether there are on board any, and what number, of copies of the holy scriptures, for the use of the ship's company during the voyage.

III. If no supply, or only an inadequate one, should have been previously procured, we authorise you to present to the captain or chief officer, for the

use of the ship's company, a supply of Bibles and Testaments, according to the following scale: viz.

For vessels navigated with six or seven men, one Bible and two Testaments.

For vessels navigated with eight or nine men, one Bible and three Testaments.

For vessels navigated with ten men and upwards, a Bible for each watch, and a Testament for every three or four men.

IV. This authority to bestow Bibles and Testaments gratuitously on ships that are unfurnished with them, need not, however, be used in cases where the captain feels the obligation incumbent on him, or shews a willingness to provide the requisite means of instruction for his crew. In such cases, copies of the Scriptures may be supplied to him at prime cost, and the gratuitous supply will then be unnecessary.

V. The description of Bibles and Testaments to be gratuitously bestowed must for the present be left to your discretion; with this general remark, that we should wish economy to be consulted, as far as may be consistent with higher objects.

VI. At the same time that the *ship* is thus supplied with the Scriptures for the use of the seamen, it will be desirable that an offer should be made to the seamen themselves of Bibles and Testaments, for their own use, *at half the prime cost.* We are disposed at present to think that it will not be expedient to give copies of the Scriptures to individual seamen. Those who value them sufficiently to make this course at all proper, will not hesitate to purchase them at the reduced rate which has been mentioned.

VII. It will be particularly important that every fact should be minutely noted by you, as far as time and circumstances will permit, which may be likely to aid us in our future measures, and to throw light on the moral condition of the seamen, on the disposition manifested by them to receive and read the Scriptures, and on the disposition shewn by the officers to encourage their men in so doing. It would also be useful to know how many there may be on board who can read them; and if an opportunity should be offered of making the suggestion, those who cannot, might be incited to employ their leisure time, during the voyage, in learning to read from those who can.

VIII. We are well persuaded that no prudent exertions will be wanting on your part to interest all classes on board in the Society's object, to induce the officers to give the requisite encouragement to the men in reading the Scriptures, and to induce the men to read them, and to dispense the benefit of them also to such of their shipmates as cannot read themselves.

IX. It will be proper also to recommend the books to the special care of the captain or chief officer.

X. Besides keeping a book, which shall exhibit clearly the receipts and issues of Bibles, and the stock in hand, under columns corresponding with the numbers in the inclosed schedule,* and a book which shall also clearly record all your cash transactions in the society's account (with which books you will be furnished), it will be necessary to keep a clear register of all your proceedings in a book which will also be furnished for the purpose, and according to the form there prescribed.† Of the entries in the book, it will be necessary that transcripts should, on a fixed day in each week, be sent to us.

* This schedule will be found under the head of "Agent's Registry," in Section IV.

† This form is similar to that recommended in Section IV. of this chapter.

Weekly Report of the Agent.

XI. The secretaries will also furnish you with a number of copies of the address and plan of the society, and of the circular letters intended for ship-masters, which you will employ according to your discretion in forwarding the society's views."

5. The following extracts from the First Annual Report of the London Merchant-Seamen's Society, will illustrate the practical tendency of these instructions, and of the mode pursued by this society:—

I. "Those who are acquainted with the state of the maritime concerns of this port, will feel the propriety of confining the gratuitous supply of the Scriptures within the limits prescribed by the Committee. While such seamen as value the Scriptures sufficiently to pay a trifling price for them, have the opportunity of purchasing them, the copies which are gratuitously supplied are given, not to the seamen themselves, but to the ship for their use: they are to be regarded as part of the ship's furniture, to be used for the instruction and edification, not merely of the present crew on the present voyage, but of successive crews on successive voyages.

II. The instructions given to Lieutenant Cox have been carried into effect with a singular degree of regularity. The Committee have never failed to receive, on the appointed day, the weekly report of his proceedings; and each succeeding report has tended at the same time to excite a livelier interest in the society's objects, and to call forth their gratitude for being allowed to bear any part, however humble, in promoting their attainment.

III. The reports of Lieutenant Cox are drawn up in a tabular form, and they exhibit distinctly the following particulars:—

1. The Date.
2. The Name of the Ship visited.
3. The Captain.
4. The Ship's Owner or Husband.
5. The Port to which the Ship belongs.
6. The Voyage on which the Ship is bound.
7. The number of the Ship's Company.
8. The number of those who can read.
9. The number of Bibles and Testaments found on board.
10. The number supplied gratuitously.
11. The number sold, and the amount.

These particulars are accompanied by general observations, of a very useful and interesting description."

In order to prevent the improper disposal of Bibles and Testaments designed for "the use of the ship," the Committee, in addition to the stamp affixed to the title-page, have directed their agent to brand the outside cover of every copy distributed, with the words "Merchant-Seamen's Auxiliary Bible Society, London." They have also adopted the plan, originally devised at Bishop-Wearmouth, of recommending the owners and captains of ships to provide boxes, of which the agent exhibits a model, for the preservation of the Bibles.

Abstract of the Proceedings to the present time.

6. In the Second Annual Report, the Committee detail the mode of their proceedings, in reference to the supply of seamen in the *coasting-trade;* for which purpose, exclusively, they have appointed an active and judicious agent, and fixed the rate of sale at *three-fourths* of the cost price. The propriety of this arrangement will be evident, when it is stated, that, in the short period of nine months, nearly 1300 Bibles and Testaments have been sold to seamen employed in this branch of trade.

7. The following abstract of the agent's reports will exhibit the results of this institution to the 21st of March, 1821 :—

I.	Total number of ships visited and supplied			3,157
II.	. . Do. . . of men on board			49,456
III.	. . Do. . . of ships found totally destitute of Bibles, &c.			834
IV.	. . Do. . . of men on board			8,149
V.	. . Do. . . of ships revisited, having been supplied			1,962
VI.	. . Do. . . of copies distributed,			
	Gratuitously . . . Bibles	2591		
	Testaments .	6509		
			9100	
	At reduced prices Bibles	1849		
	Testaments .	1204		
			3053	
				12,153

	£.	s.	d.
The total amount of 14,031 Bibles and Testaments received by the Society to March 1821, at cost prices, is	2983	3	5
The amount remitted to the British and Foreign Bible Society, is	1350	0	0
Leaving a balance against the Society of . .	£. 1633	3	5

But the Committee of the Parent Society, under a sense of the exigency of the case, and of the unavoidable extent of the incidental expenses attending the institution, have, with their usual liberality, granted Bibles and Testaments to the amount of this balance, and thus extinguished a debt which must otherwise have paralysed the future efforts of the Committee. On this subject they observe, in their Second Annual Report,—

" Whether we shall be hereafter enabled, by the zeal and charity of the merchants and ship-owners of London, to repay these sums into its treasury, and thus to vindicate the title we have assumed of an *Auxiliary*, is uncertain. But we can make them a return, which, to the members of that institution, will be still more gratifying ;—we can shew them that good has been effected by their bounty ; and that the seed they have enabled us to sow among our seamen is producing a rich harvest of blessings."

Beneficial effects produced on the moral character of Seamen.

8. An important part of Lieutenant Cox's duties consists in revisiting the ships he has supplied, to ascertain whether the Scriptures furnished by the society remain on board, and whether they have been read by the seamen. In discharging this branch of his duty, he has received the most gratifying and unequivocal evidence of the moral benefits derived from this institution.—

"'The alteration that has been effected in my crew,' said one captain, 'by reading of the Scriptures, would astonish any one: they are become quite different beings.'—'I can assure you, sir,' said another, 'I see an alteration in seamen every voyage for the better.'—A third observed, 'I am persuaded your society has been the means of altering the manners of seamen much, for the change is of late; and to what can we attribute that change, but to those means which have been used in behalf of our seamen? They are not that ungrateful and unprincipled set of men they were.'—On board another ship, the captain observed, 'It is to me, sir, astonishing, to see the alteration which seems to have taken place in the manners of seamen. Ah, sir, religion will soften them down, if any thing can: they are not those swearing, cursing, drunken, debauched creatures they were a little while ago.'—In another vessel, where the agent found twenty-eight Bibles among thirty-six men, the language was, 'Some of the seamen went to sea lions, and came home lambs.'—'I wish,' observed another captain, 'I could always secure a religious crew: all connected with the vessel would reap the benefit of it.'—'Oh,' said the master of another ship, 'you know not how glad I am to see you: come, and see the books, how well they have been used: they have been well read, indeed.' Here he produced them, saying, 'Do look at the corners of the leaves: see with what attention they have been read. How often have I been delighted in observing the attention of the crew to the Scriptures! and were you to behold them, I am sure you would be equally pleased, sir: they are a world the better for them. Alas! no good owners—no good captains—no good seamen—no good any thing, without religion.'"

It would be easy to multiply testimonies of a similar kind, extracted from the agent's reports: nor is it matter of surprise, that one of the captains, under a conviction of the benefits resulting from the labours of the society, should exclaim—

"*Ship-owners, I presume, defray all the expense attending this work. If they do not, they ought to do so.* Every man of the least consideration must be convinced in a moment of the vast utility of such an institution."

9. It will be recollected, that the Bibles and Testaments *gratuitously* supplied are not presented to individuals, but *to the ships*, for the use of the crew; and that they are given in charge to the captain or chief officer. Yet it will doubtless excite surprise, that the number of copies distributed by sale bears so small a proportion to the total issued by the society. As this subject will be more fully considered in the sequel, this sketch of the Merchant-Seamen's Society cannot be better closed than in the energetic language of their appeal to

the sympathy and Christian feeling of the merchants and ship-owners of London:—

"The benefits resulting to them from the communication of Scriptural knowledge can no longer be questioned: still less can the line of conduct, which, under these circumstances, is prescribed to us, by our obligations to GOD and man, admit of a moment's doubt or hesitation. Even if we were insensible to those obligations, insensible to the motives, which are furnished by the religion we profess, to minister to the spiritual wants of our seamen; —if we could shut our ears to the claims of common humanity, which call upon us to raise them from the misery and degradation which are the never-failing effects of ignorance and vice;—if we could remain unaffected by all the facts which have been produced, to prove the ameliorating influence of Scriptural knowledge on their state and character;—if we could be indifferent to the consideration of the advantages which, as members of this great and happy community, we should derive from having our future navies manned by men who have been taught to fear GOD, and honour their king, and love their country;—if we could be insensible to all these purer and loftier incentives to exertion, let us at least be swayed by the more sordid calculation of personal interest. Even that lower motive would bring us to the same conclusion. Even in the estimate of pecuniary profit and loss, we should find ourselves gainers, by expending on our seamen the cost of the Bibles they require. No fact can be more incontrovertibly established, by what has passed under the observation of the Committee during the last year, than this,—that the effect of religious instruction on shipboard, is, to diminish among our seamen the evils of intemperance, insubordination, and wastefulness; and to substitute habits of order, sobriety, carefulness, cleanliness, obedience to superiors, and general attention to the duties of their station. No policy, therefore, can be more undeniably expedient on the part of merchants and ship-owners, if we could suppose the weight of higher motives to fail, than that which the Committee now beg leave, in conclusion, most respectfully but most earnestly to recommend to their adoption; namely, that of supporting, by their countenance and contributions, the MERCHANT-SEAMEN'S AUXILIARY BIBLE SOCIETY, for supplying British merchant-ships with the Holy Scriptures."

There are two other institutions of this description, which acquire, from their importance or peculiarity of constitution, a distinct notice:—

1. THE LIVERPOOL MARINE BIBLE SOCIETY.—This society was established on the 13th of January, 1818; and in the October following it was organized on the plan of that in the metropolis. The Committee, however, appear to have been aware of the insufficiency of their Rules; and shortly afterwards the following additional Regulations were adopted:—

I. "That two members of the Committee be appointed as a Sub-Committee for each Dock, with power to add to their number; that each Sub-Committee meet once every fortnight, and make a written report of their proceedings once a month to the Secretaries.

II. That a suitable person be obtained, on as moderate terms as possible, to assist in procuring information as to the vessels on the point of sailing, and in the delivery of Bibles and Testaments.

III. That the attention of the Committee shall be confined at present to

vessels bound on foreign voyages, except in cases of direct applications, to be supplied at cost prices only.

IV. That the co-operation of the owners shall be obtained in all cases, when it is practicable.

V. That no Bibles or Testaments shall be *given*, if it is possible to *sell* them at any price: that the ship-masters should be requested to encourage the sailors to subscribe for them: and that in cases where they are not purchased, and there appears to be no probability of any subscriptions being received, three Testaments only be given; one for the master, one for the officers, and one for the men, to be stamped "For the use of the Ship."

VI. That in case the Superintendent finds any captain deserving of confidence, and desirous of distributing Bibles in Foreign Ports, he be directed to make the circumstances known to the Sub-Committee of the Dock, and that the Sub-Committee should be recommended to communicate the same to the Secretaries of the Liverpool Auxiliary Bible Society."

Two AGENTS have been subsequently appointed;—and by the returns up to January 1820, it appears that nearly one thousand Bibles and Testaments have been distributed. The necessity of such a society in the second mercantile port of Great Britain, is established by the fact, that of 437 ships visited, 268, containing 3790 seamen, were found destitute of the holy scriptures.

2. The ZETLAND, DAVIES' STRAITS, GREENLAND FISHERY, and MARINE BIBLE SOCIETY.—As this remarkable institution differs in many respects from those which have been already described, and the plan is recommended to other sea-ports of Scotland, on the high authority of the Edinburgh Bible Society, it is necessary to detail its Regulations more particularly. In contemplating its establishment among a group of islands at the northern extremity of the empire, and considering its peculiar nature and design, we are powerfully reminded of the prophetic declaration—"*Surely the isles shall wait for me, and the ships of Tarshish first, to bring thy sons from far, their silver and their gold with them, unto the name of the Lord thy God and to the Holy One of Israel.*" The formation of this society is thus announced by the Committee of the Edinburgh Society:—

"In the establishment of this Institution, your Committee recognise an instrument of the greatest value. It will be associated in your minds with the Merchant-Seamen's Bible Society in London, the Bible Societies of Liverpool, of Hull, and other ports—a branch of exertion in the circulation of Scripture, the importance of which is yet very far from being fully appreciated. If, by means of such institutions, an interest, first, in favour of the possession, and then in favour of the dispersion of the Scriptures, can be created on board of every vessel that leaves a British port, there is, perhaps, no measure which may ultimately be productive of more powerful effect in promoting the distribution of Scripture abroad. Your Committee therefore cannot refrain from taking this opportunity of earnestly recommending the example which has been set by the Zetland Marine Institution, to the immediate attention and imitation of *every sea-port in Scotland.*"

Greenland Fishery Marine Bible Society in the Shetland Islands.

The following is a copy of the REGULATIONS, as furnished by the Secretary:—

THE ZETLAND, DAVIES' STRAITS, GREENLAND FISHERY, AND MARINE BIBLE SOCIETY—*Instituted 23d March*, 1818.

The shipmasters, agents, and mariners of vessels engaged in the Davies' Straits and Greenland Fisheries, and ship-owners, masters, and mariners engaged in the trade of these islands, and others, having this day formed themselves into an Association, for the purpose of contributing to the circulation of the Holy Scriptures without note or comment, and for other purposes connected with or conducive to the spreading of the Gospel, more particularly amongst the mariners of these islands, under the denomination of the ZETLAND, DAVIES' STRAITS, GREENLAND FISHERY, AND MARINE BIBLE SOCIETY,—

RESOLVE—

I. That every *mariner* be invited to become a subscriber; and that no subscription be received, but such as is voluntary on the part of the subscriber.

II. That every mariner, being a member of this Society, employed in the fisheries, subscribe sixpence for the voyage; and in the country-trade, sixpence per annum.

III. That the ship-masters of the Davies' Straits and Greenland vessels shall have at their disposal, under the management of the society, so much of its funds, after defraying all expenses, as the proportion of their mariners from their ports of outfit bears to the mariners of these islands, upon the total enumeration of their crews, being members, but not otherwise.

IV. That each ship-master take charge of the subscription in his ship, distinguishing betwixt those from the mariners from his port of outfit, and those from the mariners of these islands, and that he do collect the same before he proceeds to the fishery; paying over to his agent the subscriptions from the mariners from his port of outfit, and giving an order to his said agent to deduct the subscriptions from the native mariners in his employ for the voyage, from the wages in his hands payable to them; who shall thereafter, being so authorised, pay the same into the hands of the Treasurer, upon his receipt, for account of the society.

V. That a regular list of mariners subscribing, distinguishing as above, be made out each voyage, from the articles and muster-roll of each ship, by the surgeon; and delivered to the agent, with the subscriptions for the use of the society.

VI. That the business of this society be managed by the ship-masters, agents, ship-owners, and others connected with it; whereof nine, with the Secretary and Treasurer, shall form a quorum, with power to appoint a preses: and that the Secretary and Treasurer act during the pleasure of the society, from year to year.

VII. That the general annual meeting be held at Lerwick, the third Thursday in March, in every year, to audit the accounts, to report the proceedings of the society for the past year, and for such other purposes as are or may be connected with or conducive to the objects of the society.

VIII. That besides the annual meetings, there be held, at Lerwick, quarterly meetings, on the third Thursday in June, September, and December in each year, for the purpose of receiving and answering applications for supplies of Bibles and Testaments; and that five of the resident members be a quorum, including the preses.

IX. That the funds of this society, whether arising from subscriptions, donations, or the sales of Bibles or Testaments at prime cost, or at reduced

prices, shall, from time to time, be expended in the purchase of Bibles and Testaments at prime cost, to be given or sold amongst the mariners of these islands.

X. That application be made to the Edinburgh Bible Society, for permission to lay out the disposeable funds of this society in purchasing, at their depository, Bibles and Testaments at their prime cost.

XI. That a list of vessels employed in the Davies' Straits and Greenland fisheries in the year 1818, which touched at the port of Lerwick, whose masters, agents, and mariners are members of the society, be made out, to accompany these regulations.

XII. That a sufficient number of these regulations and list be printed, for distribution amongst the subscribers; and that the expense be defrayed out of the funds of the society.

XIII. That these regulations remain in force until altered or amended in a general meeting of the society, of which due notice must be given at the quarterly December meeting preceding.

Signed, in the name and on the behalf of the subscribers, by

W. GN. M'CRAE, Comptroller of Customs,
Secretary and Treasurer."

The list referred to in the 11th Rule comprises the names of *thirty-four* ships, whose masters are members of this society; and blanks are left opposite to each, for the insertion of the requisite particulars, on a plan similar to that of the "Agent's Registry," a specimen of which will be found in its proper place, in Section IV. of this chapter.

SECTION III.

RULES AND REGULATIONS.

1. Having thus traced the progress and observed the modes of proceeding adopted by the various Marine Bible Societies established in the sea-ports of Great Britain, the reader cannot fail to remark the want of uniformity in the Regulations by which they are governed, and of that mutual identity of organization, to which much of the success which has attended kindred institutions may be ascribed.—The state of this part of the system, at the present period, bears a striking resemblance to that of "Auxiliary Societies" in the year 1811; and the necessity of a Code of Rules adapted to the peculiar nature of the design, and calculated to promote its stability and extension, must be evident to all who feel interested in the object. Whether the following Regulations be altogether such as may meet the exigencies of the case, it is not for the author to decide: if they only furnish hints on which others may improve, or induce the more general adoption of the measures detailed in the preceding Sections, his wishes will be equally gratified.

Laws and Regulations recommended for adoption.

2. RESOLUTIONS *recommended for adoption at Meetings convened for the establishment of* MARINE BIBLE SOCIETIES, *at Sea-ports.*

I. That the object and constitution of the British and Foreign Bible Society have the cordial approbation of this Meeting.

II. That a Society be now formed, to be called "The ——— Marine Bible Society," for promoting the circulation of the holy scriptures among Seamen, and of co-operating, through the medium of the ——— Auxiliary (or Branch) Society, with the British and Foreign Bible Society.

III. That the Bibles and Testaments circulated by this society shall be without note or comment, and that those in the languages of the United Kingdom shall be of the authorised versions only.

IV. That all persons subscribing one guinea or upwards per annum, or ten guineas or upwards at one time, shall be members of this society.

V. That the business of this society shall be conducted by a President, Treasurer, —— Secretaries, and a Committee consisting of ——— other members, five of whom shall be a quorum.

VI. That the Committee shall meet once every month, or oftener if necessary, on some day to be fixed by themselves.

VII. That it shall be the duty of the Committee, either personally, or by means of agents regularly appointed, to visit the ships in this harbour, whether they belong to this or any other port, in order to ascertain the want of Bibles and Testaments; and that the Committee shall furnish them therewith, at prime cost, reduced prices, or gratuitously, at their discretion.

VIII. That the Committee shall adopt every suitable measure for encouraging and assisting in the formation of Bible Associations on board Merchant Ships, according to the rules recommended by the Parent Society.

IX. That the funds of this society, or such part thereof as the Committee shall direct, whether arising from subscriptions, donations, or the sale of Bibles and Testaments, shall from time to time be expended in the purchase of Bibles and Testaments at prime cost, to be distributed among Seamen as before directed; and that any surplus which may arise, be remitted annually to the ——— Auxiliary (or Branch) Bible Society, in aid of the general object of the British and Foreign Bible Society.

X. That the Committee shall be authorised to entrust Captains of Merchant Ships with Bibles and Testaments for distribution by sale, to an extent not exceeding £.— to any one Master. Such Bibles and Testaments to be sold at not less than one-half their cost prices, a list of which, with a form of returns, shall be given to every Captain with the Bibles and Testaments committed to his charge.

XI. That the Committee shall endeavour to obtain the cost prices of all Bibles and Testaments issued by them, whether to seamen individually or for the ship's use; and that in all cases where copies are delivered under such cost prices, or gratuitously, the name of this society shall be branded on the outsides of the cover.

XII. That a General Meeting of the Subscribers be held at ———, on the ——— in each year; when the accounts shall be presented, the proceedings of the past year stated, a new Committee appointed, and a report agreed upon, to be printed under the direction of the Committee.

XIII. That in the formation of the new Committee, the Treasurer, Secretaries, and such three-fourths of the other members as have most frequently attended the Committee, shall be re-eligible for the ensuing year.

XIV. That ——— be President, ——— Treasurer, ——— Secretaries, and ——— Members of the Committee for the year ensuing.

XV. That annual subscriptions and donations be now entered into, and

that they be also received by the Treasurer, Secretaries, and the several bankers of this town and neighbourhood.

XVI. That a copy of these Resolutions, signed by the Secretaries, be transmitted to the Committee of the ——— Auxiliary (or Branch) Bible Society.

XVII. That the Committee meet on the —— instant, at —— o'clock, and prepare an address on the object and views of this Society, to be printed and circulated with the Rules now adopted, among the merchants, ship-owners, and captains of this port; and that a copy be transmitted to the Committee of the British and Foreign Bible Society.

OBSERVATIONS.

3. Many of the remarks already submitted, in reference to the Rules and By-Laws of Auxiliary Societies, (*See Chap.* II. *Sections* II. *&* III.) will be found equally applicable in the case now under consideration. There are, however, some peculiarities in the nature and constitution of a Marine Bible Society, which demand more particular notice.

I. It will be observed, that the term "Auxiliary" is omitted in the *Second* Rule; as its adoption might lead to confusion, by identifying the establishment in question with the Local Society. It is however earnestly hoped, that many Marine Societies will follow the example of their elder sisters in the Northern Counties, by contributing their aid to the general object of the Parent Institution.

II. It may be occasionally found of advantage to add "Vice-Presidents" to the honorary officers specified in the *Fifth* Rule: this, however, will be matter for local arrangement. With regard to the number of secretaries, *two* will be sufficient, especially if the society employ agents. The appointment of the latter will, in all probability, be a circumstance of rare occurrence, except in sea-ports of considerable magnitude, and the duties enjoined by the *Seventh* Rule be discharged by the members of the Committee in rotation. If the Committee consist of twenty-four or thirty members, and six be appointed monthly as Visitors, the state of every ship may be investigated, and the interest be preserved, without subjecting the gentlemen thus engaged to any extraordinary inconvenience.

III. As the practical tendency of the *Eighth* Rule will be fully considered in Section V. it is only necessary, in this place, to observe, that in no respect can the services and influence of the Committee be more profitably directed, than in the promotion and organization of those highly important institutions to which the regulation refers.

IV. The Reader will be prepared to appreciate the provisions of the *Tenth* Rule, on referring to the proceedings of the Whitby and Hull Societies, in Section I., where every necessary information relative to this part of the plan has been already given. It is difficult

to specify the precise amount of Bibles and Testaments which should be entrusted to any particular captain for sale, as much will depend on the character of the individual, and the nature of his voyage; but perhaps 10*l.* may be judiciously entered as the *maximum*. In this, as well as every other part of the design, the discretion of the Committee must be exercised, to guard against abuse, and protect the interests of the society. The considerations suggested by the *Eleventh* Rule will be found among the general remarks in the last section of this chapter.

SECTION IV.

FORMS OF THE BOOKS, AND MODE OF KEEPING THE ACCOUNTS.

*** *In all the Specimens contained in this and the following Sections, the entries in Italics are to be considered as Manuscript.*

Many of the Books and Papers required by a Marine Bible Society are similar to those of an Auxiliary Society, which have been fully described in Chap. II. Section V.; and the requisite alterations in the mode of making the entries will readily suggest themselves to the secretaries. It may be necessary, however, to observe, that an account should be opened in the Leger, with every owner, &c. whose ship has been supplied, whether by sale or gratuitously, in order to shew what it has cost the society to furnish the vessel. The London Merchant-Seamen's Society has experienced the advantage of this plan; as in many instances the owners have subsequently paid for the Bibles and Testaments on receiving a bill of parcels, though the supply in the first instance was gratuitous. The following are the Books and Papers peculiar to a Marine Society.

I.—THE AGENT'S (OR VISITOR'S) MEMORANDUM BOOK.

This book should be of a convenient size for the pocket, and ought to be taken on board every ship visited or revisited. The author is not aware that any such book is now in use; but he ventures to recommend its adoption, as calculated to save considerable trouble. It may contain about 300 pages, each of which should be printed according to the Specimen, leaving blanks for the entries, which are here inserted in italics. If it be cut in the form of an alphabetical index, leaving a suitable number of pages for every letter, it will facilitate the reference to any particular ship. A few blank pages may be left at the end of the book, for the purpose of noting any observations in reference to vessels revisited, the *original* entries of which are in a preceding Memorandum Book.

Specimen of the Agent's Memorandum Book.—Observations, &c.

SPECIMEN.

1. Number in the Registry	624.
2. Date of Visit	18*th Sept.* 1820.
3. Name of the Ship	*Mary.*
4. Captain's Name	*Hughes.*
5. Ship's Owner or Husband	*F. Todrig, Esq.*
6. Port to which the Ship belongs	*London.*
7. Voyage on which the Ship is bound	*South Seas.*
8. Number of the Ship's Company	36.
9. Number of those who can read	31.
10. Number of Bibles and Testaments on board	16.
11. Number of Ditto and ditto sold for Ship's use	4 *Bibles No.* 2.
12. Number of Ditto and ditto sold to individuals	6 *D°. No.* 3.
13. Number of Ditto and ditto gratuitously supplied	*None.*
14. Amount received for Bibles and Testaments	£.3 . 6 . 8
15. Amount of Donations and Subscriptions received for the Society	*One Pound.*

OBSERVATIONS.

The Captain told me, that in his last long voyage he found the benefit of giving suitable instruction to those under his orders. Every sabbath morning it was his practice to assemble his people together to prayers and to hear the Scriptures read; and in the after-part of the day, he observed, it was pleasant to behold the seamen scattered about the ship, under the boats, and in other shady places, reading their Bibles. "Great things, Sir," said he, "can be done, if Owners and Commanders are pleased to put their hands to the good work, which I hope they will do, when they see it to be their interest, as well as their duty, to attend to the morals of their people: no Owner or Captain ought to receive the Scriptures without contributing to the funds. I intreat you, Sir, to accept of a pound note, towards defraying the expense attending the circulation of Bibles and Testaments amongst our seamen: I wish I could do more."—It will be observed, that cost prices have been obtained for all the copies sold on board this ship. I was pleased with the candid confession of one of the crew, who carried with him an honest countenance: he said aloud—"We sailors have been swearers quite long enough; it is now high time we began to pray:—let me have a Bible."

II.—THE AGENT'S REGISTRY.

This should be a large quarto book, to open lengthways. A few pages at the beginning may be ruled according to the Specimen No. 1, for the purpose of entering the receipts and deliveries of Bibles and Testaments, which should be balanced every month. The remainder of the book should be ruled according to Specimen No. 2. On returning to his office, the Agent should immediately enter from the Memorandum Book the requisite particulars into the Registry, the specimen of which will sufficiently explain the mode of proceeding.

Agent's

SPECIMEN,

[To occupy the first ten

Date. — 1820.	No. of Invoice.	RECEIVED. Bibles. 1	2	3	4	5	10	12	15	17	19	Testaments. 6	7	8	9	11	13	14	16	18	20	21	22	23	24
11*th Sept.*	47	10	20	5				4			11				6			6				10			

SPECIMEN,

[To occupy the re-

No.	Date.	Ship's Name.	Captain's Name.	Ship's Owner or Husband.	Port to which she belongs.	Voyage.	No. of Men.	No. can read.	Supply found on Board. B.	T.
	1820.									
624	18*th Sept.*	*Mary*	*Hughes*	*F. Fodrig, esq.*	*London*	*South Seas*	36	31	6	10
625	.....	*Jane*	*Fawcett*	*Mr. King*	*Bristol*	*Jamaica*	15	12		4
630	.....	*Maria*	*Biggs*	*Wilson & Co.*	*Liverpool*	*Ditto*	26	18	1	1
674	19*th*.....	*Caroline*	*Scott*	*Mr. James*	*Sunderland*	*Malta*	14	13	2	6

Registry.

No. 1.

Folios of the Book.]

Week ending. — 1820.	Respective Nos. of the Ships supplied.	DELIVERED.																						
		Bibles.									Testaments.													
		1	2	3	4	5	10	12	15	17	19	6	7	8	9	11	13	14	16	18	20	21	22	23	24
20*th Sept.*	624		4	6																				
.....	625	2										6												
.....	630					2							2											
.....	674		3		1											6								

No. 2.

-mainder of the Book.]

Sold for Ship's use.				Sold to Individuals.				Gratuitous Grants.				Amount of Sales.			General Observations.
B.	No.	T.	No.	B.	No.	T.	No.					£.	s.	d.	
4	2			6	3							3	6	8	*Donation from the Captain, £.1.*
2	1					6	6					2	6	6	
				2	5	2	7						15	4	
3	2			1	4	6	11					2	0	8	*Donation from the Captain,* 10s.6*d.*

The Agent's Registry, and Weekly Report.

With every parcel of Bibles and Testaments forwarded to the Agent, the Secretary should furnish an invoice, specifying the precise number and description of the copies sent. This invoice should be immediately entered in the Registry (*Specimen, No.* 1.), and then folded and indorsed with its appropriate number, to promote facility of reference.

The London Merchant-Seamen's Society adopts the plan of designating every description of Bible and Testament by a Number: and as that plan is followed here, it is necessary to transcribe the List, a copy of which should be pasted inside the cover of the Registry.

		Cost the Society. s. d.
	ENGLISH BIBLES.	
No. 1.	Small Pica . . .	10 . 6
2.	Brevier	7 . 2
3.	Minion	6 . 0
4.	Nonpareil . . .	4 . 2
5.	Pocket Nonpareil .	4 . 6
	ENGLISH TESTAMENTS.	
6.	Pica	4 . 3
7.	Long Primer . .	3 . 2
8.	Brevier	2 . 3
9.	Pocket	2 . 1
No. 10.	Welch Bible . .	5 . 0
11.	——— Testament .	2 . 6
12.	Gaelic Bible . .	6 . 6
13.	——— Testament .	2 . 6
14.	Irish Testament .	3 . 3
	FOREIGN BIBLES AND TESTAMENTS.	
15.	French Bible . .	6 . 8
16.	——— Testament .	2 . 9
17.	German Bible . .	7 . 0
18.	——— Testament,	2 . 9
19.	Dutch Bible . . .	7 . 0
20.	—— Testament .	3 . 9
21.	Spanish	2 . 9
22.	Portuguese . . .	2 . 9
23.	Danish	2 . 9
24.	Italian	2 . 9

All the above are bound in Calf.

III.—AGENT'S WEEKLY REPORT.

This is simply an abstract, taken from the Registry, of all proceedings during the past week. It should be presented on a sheet of large paper; and it will save much valuable time if the form be printed, so as to render it necessary only to fill in the returns. The amount received by the Agent, and the names and address of all new contributors to the society, should be transmitted with the Report. If the Form be printed on *one* side, it may be found sufficient; and the other may be appropriated to those interesting facts and observations that confer a peculiar value on these documents, which should be transmitted, weekly, to the Committee, on a stated day, and preserved by the Secretaries in a *Guard Book*, in a regular series.

First Association formed on board the Vigilant, Capt. Reynolds.

SECTION V.

MARINE BIBLE ASSOCIATIONS ON BOARD SHIPS.

1. Scarcely had the Thames Union Committee commenced its labours, when the indefatigable Mr. PHILLIPS perceived that something was yet wanted to complete this part of the system. With his usual acuteness, he beheld the full extent to which the operations of this new society *could* be carried, and the point at which its deficiencies would become obvious. To supply seamen with the holy scriptures is a great and good object; but to excite that interest which shall induce them to assist in *supplying themselves*, is of far higher moment. The astonishing results of Bible Associations had begun to unfold themselves; the moral tone of feeling which they are so peculiarly calculated to arouse, had in some degree been developed; and it occurred to this enlightened philanthropist, that if a similar cause were brought into operation among the wanderers of the deep, similar effects might be anticipated. Under this impression, he suggested the idea of MARINE BIBLE ASSOCIATIONS; and subsequently prepared, in conjunction with the author, a Code of Rules for their government, and an Address to Ship-owners and Commanders. These Regulations, having received the approbation of the Parent Committee, were printed on a sheet, containing also the Address to Mariners, specimens of the types, and of the mode of keeping the accounts; and in this form, were circulated generally through the country.

2. The *first* Marine Bible Association appears to have been formed on board the ship *Vigilant* of Hull, Francis Reynolds master, previous to the publication of these Rules. As it may be interesting to observe the mode of proceeding in this early commencement of the system, and will afford a gratifying evidence of the facility with which these little societies may be established, the following account of the transaction cannot with propriety be withheld.

PROCEEDINGS *of a Meeting held on board the ship Vigilant of Hull, lying off the Mother Bank, 19th July*, 1813.—

FRANCIS REYNOLDS, Master, *in the Chair*.

Present, the Crew of the said vessel.

"The crew having been informed of the reason of their being called together, namely, to contribute their mite towards aiding the funds of the British and Foreign Bible Society, in the great work in which it is engaged,—

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY,—

I. That the crew of this vessel do form themselves into an Association for

Marine Bible Association formed on board the Falmouth Packets.

the purpose of contributing towards the circulation of the holy scriptures, both at home and abroad, and that this Association be denominated '*The Ship Vigilant (of Hull) Bible Association.*'

II. That the members of this Association, who are officers or seamen, do subscribe twopence per week, and the apprentices one penny per week; and that they be debited with the same weekly by their Treasurer, the Master.

III. That this Association be under the management of a Treasurer (the master), and a Committee of three of the members of the Association; viz. Edward Kirk, Thomas Swann, and J. Waldby, who shall, if necessary, meet every month; and that their meetings begin and end with prayer.

IV. That the members of this Association have the privilege of purchasing Bibles and Testaments, for their own use, of the Treasurer, at the reduced prices of the British and Foreign Bible Society.

V. That the *whole of the funds* arising from this Association be applied to the purpose as stated in the first resolution; and that the subscriptions be transmitted, at the end of this present voyage, by the Treasurer to the Treasurer of the British and Foreign Bible Society in London, as a donation in aid of their funds from the *Ship Vigilant (of Hull) Bible Association.*

VI. That this Association do continue to exist until the end or completion of this present voyage to the Mediterranean.

(Signed) F. REYNOLDS, *Chairman.*"

3. The Commanders of the King's Packets on the Falmouth station were the next in this work of benevolence. The example was set by Captain FURZE, of the CHESTERFIELD, on a voyage to Surinam; and the Association was formed on Christmas-day 1814. As the Rules had not then been published, Captain Furze drew up a paper declaratory of the object, and invited his officers and crew to subscribe, if they felt inclined. This they cheerfully agreed to do: and the captain having first entered his own name, twenty-four others were speedily enrolled at one penny per week each; the money being deducted from the wages of the men. The amount paid to the Falmouth Bible Society was 4*l.* 19*s.* 2*d.*; and the crew were supplied with twenty-five Bibles. On the 18th of August 1815, a similar association was formed on board the SWIFTSURE Packet, Captain PEDERSON, on a voyage to the Brazils. As this ship was well supplied with Bibles, the contributions, amounting to 4*l.* 2*s.* 8*d.*, were principally *free*, only two Bibles having been required. Capt. P. having taken the command of the SPEEDY Packet in 1816, a Marine Bible Association was established on board that vessel; and the sum of 3*l.* 14*s.* 7½*d.* was collected, and presented to the Falmouth Bible Society as a free gift. Both of these Commanders bear testimony to the attention with which many of the men read their Bibles, and the gratifying manner in which they appeared to appreciate this inestimable blessing. It is probable that many other Marine Associations have been established on board other ships, of which no par-

ticulars have transpired: but it cannot be denied, that this important and interesting subject has not yet received that degree of attention to which it is eminently entitled. If the Committees and other friends of Auxiliary and Branch Societies, at the different sea-ports, exerted themselves, and formed Sub-Committees for this express purpose, there can be no doubt that the system would be generally adopted. The following suggestions will be found to contain every requisite information relative to the design.

4. *Rules recommended for Adoption by the Crew of any Ship desirous of forming a Bible Association.*

1. That we form ourselves into an Association, for the purpose of contributing toward the circulation of the holy scriptures, without note or comment; and that it be called "The Bible Association of the ship ——, Captain ——."

2. That each member of this Association subscribe not less than one penny per week.

3. That *A. B.* be President, *C. D.* Treasurer, and *E. F.* Secretary of this Association.

4. That, on the arrival of the ship at any port where a Bible Society is established, the Treasurer be requested to state the amount in his hands; and the whole, or such part as the subscribers shall direct, shall be expended in the purchase of copies of the holy scriptures, at prime cost, from the depository of such society.

5. That the descriptions of Bibles and Testaments to be purchased shall be fixed by the subscribers.

6. That it be optional with the subscribers to vote any part of their funds occasionally for the general purposes of the British and Foreign Bible Society: the money so voted to be paid to the Committee of the Bible Society at any port where the ship may touch, specifying the name of such ship and Captain.

7. That all orders on the Treasurer shall be signed by the President, Secretary, and two other subscribers.

8. That three subscribers shall be appointed to examine, approve, and sign the Treasurer's accounts, previously to the General Report, and also before any considerable payment is made out of the funds.

9. That the Secretary shall keep minutes of all the proceedings of the Association, and shall, in connexion with the President or Treasurer, draw up, at least once a-year, a Report, to be read publickly to the subscribers: which Report shall specify the amount of money received and paid, the number of Bibles and Testaments sold, and also of those given, with any interesting facts arising out of the proceedings of the Association; a copy of which Report shall be transmitted to the Committee of any Bible Society on shore which the subscribers may think proper.

5.—OBSERVATIONS.

1st Rule.—If it be the wish of the subscribers, the Association may be united to the Bible Society of the town or port to which the ship belongs. In this case, the following words should be added to this Rule "in connexion with the —— Auxiliary (or Branch) Society."

2d Rule.—The subscriptions may be paid either by the men themselves, or the master may be authorised to deduct it from their wages.

3d Rule.—On board large ships, the Captain should be solicited to become President; the chief officer, Treasurer; and one of the subordinate officers, Secretary. On board small vessels, the master may fill all those offices himself; or he may act as President and Treasurer; and the mate, or a seaman properly qualified, may act as Secretary.

4th Rule.—In the case here alluded to, a *written* order should be sent for the Bibles to one of the Secretaries of the Auxiliary (or Branch) Society, whose address can easily be obtained; and a supply of Reports, Monthly Extracts, &c. should be requested, for the information of the crew, who would thus be furnished with interesting matter for reflection and conversation during their next voyage.

5th Rule.—It has been found that the Minion and Nonpareil Bibles and Brevier Testaments are best calculated for the use of seamen. But if they are bound to a foreign port, great advantage may be derived from their ordering a few copies in the language of the country they are about to visit, for sale or gratuitous distribution, at their own option.

6th Rule.—The *first* object of a Marine Bible Association should be, the supply of the crew: when this is attained, the destitute state of millions of their fellow-creatures may be properly urged on their attention. If the Association wish to remit the money direct to the Parent Society, a banker's bill should be inclosed to Mr. *Joseph Tarn*, 10, *Earl Street, London*, with a few lines specifying the name of the ship and master.

7th Rule.—In small ships, if the Captain act as President, Treasurer, and Secretary, this order should be signed by three of the subscribers.

8th Rule.—The object of this Rule is, to prevent a doubt in the mind of any subscriber as to the regular and correct appropriation of the funds.

9th Rule.—The Secretary should provide himself with a Minute Book, for the purpose of preserving the heads of any interesting results, either on board, or in reference so the sale or gift of Bibles and Testaments in foreign countries. The account of receipts and expenditure should be clearly detailed: and no unnecessary delay should occur in transmitting a copy of the Report to the Bible Society, selected by the subscribers.

6. On board large ships, it will be found conducive to regularity and correctness to have three books; viz.

1. The MINUTE BOOK. This book is of quarto size, containing about fifty leaves, and is kept by the Secretary. The following Specimen will sufficiently illustrate the mode of making the entries.

Specimen of the Minute Book.

"5th January, 1819.

Ship, Lord Teignmouth, Captain Alexander, lying in the Cove of Cork.

The Captain having circulated some Reports and Papers concerning the Bible Society, among the ship's company, on the 1st instant, all hands were mustered this day, and he proposed to them to form a Bible Association. This being unanimously approved of, it was Resolved, that the following be the Rules and Regulations:—

[*Here copy the Rules as inserted in the fourth division of this Section.*]

12th January.—This day the subscribers were called together; and the Treasurer reported, that he had 7*l.* 14*s.* in hand; when it was resolved unanimously to lay out part of it in the purchase of the following Bibles and Testaments; viz.

	£.	s.	d.
6 Minion Bibles . . . . . at 6*s.* 2*d.*	1	17	0
6 Nonpareil ditto . . . . . 4*s.* 4*d.*	1	6	0
10 Brevier Testaments, calf. . . 2*s.* 4*d.*	1	3	4
6 Spanish ditto . . . . ditto . . 2*s.* 9*d.*	0	16	6
6 Portuguese ditto . . ditto . . 2*s.* 9*d.*	0	16	6
	£.5	19	4

which I accordingly received from the Depositary of the Cork Bible Society, with a bill and receipt for the amount.

24th March.—At anchor, off Funchal, Madeira.

A Portuguese Friar came on board; and seeing one of the Testaments, begged hard for a copy, offering to pay any price the captain asked: he was told what it cost, and gladly paid down the money. In the evening two other friars came, and wished to buy copies; but as we had so few, we only let them have one more at cost price. They seemed rejoiced to get even this one, and begged we would bring out more, if we ever made the voyage again. It would be a happy thing if sailors thought more of the Bible themselves, and then they would think more of giving it to others.

2d May.—Rio Janeiro.

'Tis a great pity we did not bring out more Spanish and Portuguese Testaments, as we could sell hundreds of copies here at the cost prices. This day we voted one gratuitously to a poor Spanish sailor, who had been a prisoner in England during the war; and who told us, with tears, that he had never forgotten the comfort he derived from the Testament given to him at that time, but which he lost when shipwrecked on his voyage to Spain.

4th May.—Mr. Bellarmo, one of the consignees of the cargo, came on board; and understanding the plan of our Bible Association, gave us a donation of one guinea, and offered to take all our stock of Spanish and Portuguese Testaments at cost prices, to distribute among deserving poor people. This was cheerfully agreed to, and they were delivered accordingly.

17th August.—At anchor in Stromness Harbour, Orkney.

The captain brought a gentleman from shore, who had just received a packet of books and papers from London. All hands were called on deck; and he gave us an account of the proceedings of the British and Foreign Bible Society at home and abroad, and distributed some of the papers among the crew. He then told us the following anecdote, which was the more interesting, as the place where we lay was the spot where the circumstance occurred:—

'Last year,' said he, 'a vessel from Stockholm, in Sweden, was driven upon our coast in a tremendous gale, and became a total wreck, situated so that no human aid could possibly be administered for the preservation of the crew. In a short time after the vessel struck, she went to pieces. The spectators on shore beheld with pungent grief the awful situation of

those on board; but those on shore could render no assistance. All on board perished, except one man; and he was driven by the merciless waves, upon a piece of the wreck, entwined amongst the ropes attached to the mast. *Half-naked* and *half-drowned*, he reached the shore, and was disengaged by the spectators from his heart-rending situation. As soon as they rescued him, they observed a small parcel tied firmly round his waist with a handkerchief. Some concluded it was his money; others, it was the ship's papers; and others said it was his watch. The handkerchief was unloosed; and to their surprise and astonishment, it was his BIBLE—a Bible given to the lad's father from the British and Foreign Bible Society. Upon the blank leaf was a prayer written, That the Lord might make the present gift the means of saving his son's soul. Upon the other blank leaf was an account how the Bible came into the old man's hands; and that gratitude to the British and Foreign Bible Society which inspires the heart of every

II.—The

[This book is of octavo size

1819.	RECEIVED.	English. Bib.	English. Test.	Foreign Bib.	Foreign Test.
Jan. 12.	*From the Depositary of the Cork Bible Society..*	12	10	0	12
		12	10	0	12
Aug. 17.	*Stock in hand*.....	10	8	0	0

7.—OBSERVATIONS.

I. On board small vessels, where the duties of Treasurer and Secretary are discharged by the same individual, one book may suffice for all purposes. In such cases, one half of the leaves should be appropriated to the Minutes, and the other half be ruled according to the specimens for the Cash and Bible Accounts.

II. The numbers prefixed to the subscribers' names in the Cash Book (*Specimen, No.* I.) should be continued uninterruptedly. Thus the last entry will always shew the total number of contributors since the establishment of the Association.

III. The entries of all receipts and payments, and of Bibles and Testaments received and delivered, should be made *at the time*, and thus the risk of error will be materially diminished.

IV. At the close of every year, the names of those suscribers who continue their contributions, should be transferred to the next blank page of the Cash Book, with the amounts which they have respectively paid *since the last Annual Report was presented.*

Specimen of the Bible Book.

Christian, was undisguisedly written by the old man. The request was, that the son should make it the man of his counsel; and it stated, that he could not allow his son to depart from home without giving him the best pledge of his love—a Bible, although that gift deprived the other parts of the family of this invaluable blessing. The Bible bore evident marks of being often read.'*

The Treasurer presented a report of the funds of the Association; and it was unanimously resolved, that the sum of 5*l.* 13*s.* 11*d.*, being the balance in hand, should be remitted as a free gift to the Hull Auxiliary Society, for the general object of the British and Foreign Bible Society; and that a copy of the Report, this day read to the subscribers, should be signed by the Treasurer and Secretary, and sent to the said Auxiliary Society."

* This anecdote was related at a Meeting of the Aberdeen Auxiliary Bible Society, by the Rev. Mr. Grant of Orkney, who was an eye-witness of the scene.

Bible Book.

and kept by the Secretary.]

1819.	DELIVERED.	English. Bib.	English. Test.	Foreign. Bib.	Foreign. Test.
Mar. 7.	*To John Brown*	1			
	James Thompson		1		
24.	*Rev. Francis Pinto*				1
	Rev. Dominic Lusado				1
April 2.	*Samuel Allen*	1			
4.	*William Jackson*		1		
May 2.	*T. Fernandez—voted gratuitously*				1
4.	*Mr. Bellarmo*				9
Aug. 17.	*Stock in hand this day*	10	8	0	0
		12	10	0	12

v. Every subscriber who has paid up the cost price should be immediately supplied with the Bible or Testament which he has selected; but no *gratuitous* grant should be made without the approbation of the subscribers at large.

vi. On board a ship belonging to the port of London, a Bible Association was formed in the year 1817, comprising thirty-two individuals. Shortly after its formation, those of the crew who were destitute received Bibles and Testaments; and the immediate effect of their perusal and of reflection was, a resolution to levy a fine of sixpence, in aid of the funds of the Association, on every seaman who uttered an oath or a profane expression. This was unanimously agreed to by all the sailors; and every man who subsequently entered was invited to sign the agreement. In one instance only, during a period of eleven months, was it found necessary to enforce this fine. Were a similar plan generally and spontaneously adopted, the character of British seamen would speedily be elevated in the opinion of those whose esteem is most valuable.

III.—The

[This Book is of octavo size, containing about

SPECIMEN,

[To occupy about three-

1.

LIST OF

No.	Began to subscribe.	Subscribers' Names.	Rate of Subscription.	Bible or Testament wanted.
	1819.			
1.	*Jan.* 5.	*Captain Alexander*	1 *Guinea* ℔ *Annum, and* 4 *Guineas Donation*.....	*None.*
2.	..	*Thomas Charles, Chief Mate*	1 *Guinea* ℔ *Annum*	*None.*
3.	..	*Joseph Hughes, Second* D°..	1*s.* ℔ *Month*.....	*None.*
4.	..	*Henry Thornton, Esq. Pass.*	1 *Guinea Donation*.....	*None.*
5.	..	*John Brown*.....	2*s.* ℔ *Month*.....	*Minion Bible.*
6.	..	*Samuel Allen*.....	3*s. Donation, and* 1*d.* ℔ *Week*....	*Nonpareil Bible.*
7.	..	*James Thompson*.....	2*d.* ℔ *Week*	*Brevier Testament.*
8.	..	*William Jackson*	1*d.* D°.	*Brevier Testament.*
9.	..	*Joseph Smith*.....	1*d.* D°.	*None.*
10.	..	*Henry Jones*.....	1*d.* D°.	*None.*
11.	*May* 4.	*Mr. Bellarmo*	1 *Guinea Donation*	*None.*

Monthly Receipts.....

SPECIMEN,

[To occupy the latter

32. Dr. CASH RECEIVED. Cash

1819.		£. s. d.
January	*To Subscriptions this Month*	7 . 14 . 0
February	D°. D°.	0 . 4 . 8
March.....	D°. D°.	0 . 5 . 4
	Cash from Rev. F. Pinto and D. Lusado, for two Portuguese Testaments	0 . 5 . 6
April.....	*Subscriptions this Month*	0 . 3 . 8
May	D°. D°.	1 . 2 . 8
	Cash for 4 *Portuguese and* 5 *Spanish Testaments*	1 . 4 . 9
June.....	*Subscriptions this Month*	0 . 5 . 4
July.....	D°. D°.	0 . 4 . 8
August	D°. D°.	0 . 2 . 8
		£ 11 . 13 . 3
September....	*To Subscriptions this Month*	0 . 3 . 8
October.....	D°. D°.	0 . 3 . 10
November....	D°. D°.	0 . 1 . 10
December....	D°. D°.	0 . 4 . 2

forty leaves, and is kept by the Treasurer.]

No. 1.

-fourths of the Book.]

SUBSCRIBERS. 1.

Monthly Subscriptions paid.												Total this Year.
Jan.	Feb.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	£. s. d.
												5. 5. 0
5*l.* 5*s.*												1. 1. 0
1*l.* 1*s.*												0.12. 0
1*s.*	1*s.*	1*s.*			3*s.*		2*s.*	1*s.*	1*s.*	1*s.*	1*s.*	1. 1. 0
1*l.* 1*s.*												0.12. 6
2*s.*	2*s.*	2*s.*	2*s.*	1*s.*		2*s.*			6*d.*	6*d.*	6*d.*	0. 6. 8
3*s.*	4*d.*	4*d.*	4*d.*	4*d.*	4*d.*	4*d.*	4*d.*	4*d.*	4*d.*	4*d.*	4*d.*	0. 6. 0
6*d.*	10*d.*		8*d.*			2*s.*			2*s.*			0. 4. 4
6*d.*	6*d.*		4*d.*	4*d.*	4*d.*			1*s.*			1*s.* 4*d.*	0. 3. 0
		1*s.*	4*d.*		8*d.*	4*d.*	4*d.*	4*d.*				0. 4. 0
		1*s.*			1*s.*			1*s.*			1*s.*	1. 1. 0
				1*l.* 1*s.*								
7.14.0	0.4.8	0.5.4	0.3.8	1.2 8	0.5.4	0.4.8	0.2.8	0.3.8	0.3.10	0.1.10	0.4.2	10.16. 6

No. 2.

part of the Book.]

Account. CASH PAID. Cr. 32.

1819.		£. s. d.
Jan. 12.	*By the Depositary of the Cork Bible Society for Bibles and Testaments, as per Account*	5 . 19 . 4
Aug. 17.	*Balance in hand, voted to the Committee of the Hull Bible Society for the general object of the British and Foreign Bible Society*	5 . 13 . 11
		11 . 13 . 3

Associations have contributed largely.—Ability of Seamen to co-operate,

SECTION VI.

GENERAL REMARKS.

In submitting a few observations which naturally arise out of the preceding details, the author is painfully sensible that his views may not altogether accord with those of some highly-valued friends; but as it is his avowed design to offer such suggestions as appear to him calculated to improve the system, those friends will at least do justice to his motives.

1. Of the great importance of exciting and encouraging in seamen an interest in the possession and universal circulation of the holy scriptures, there cannot be a second opinion among the friends of the Bible Society. And as it has been abundantly proved, that Associations *on board ships* are the most effectual means by which this interest is produced, it follows, that every Marine Bible Society should be so constituted as to promote their establishment and extension.

2. It should be a fundamental principle of Bible Associations, that they shall at least support themselves, if they do not contribute to the funds of the Parent Society; and in numerous instances they have, highly to their praise, *liberally* supported the foreign objects of the institution. This principle is practically applied throughout the kingdom: its operations are beheld in the crowded lanes and alleys of the metropolis; among the dense population of our manufacturing districts; and in the scattered cottages of our peasantry: but, hitherto, it has scarcely been called into exercise in reference to our seamen; and it would be difficult to assign an adequate reason for this remarkable exception. In the former cases, the earnings of the labourer or mechanic are appropriated to the purchase of the daily bread for himself and his family: in the latter, the sailor is provided with that bread by his employer, and his wages are, comparatively, clear gain. The *ability* to subscribe which a seamen possesses, is, in general, far superior to that enjoyed by the great mass of our labouring population. It is therefore submitted, that the same principle which governs the society in repect to the latter, should be applied throughout the whole extent of its domestic operations.

3. It affords matter for serious reflection, whether Marine Bible Societies, and especially *Associations*, may not be made the principal instrument of effecting a change in the habits and character of our seamen. Proverbially careless and profligate, and having every necessary provision and comfort

abundantly supplied, they require to be taught the value of money, as the means of attaining future independence. Let the registers of our SAVINGS BANKS be examined, and it will appear that the deposit of a *sailor* is a rare and remarkable occurrence;—but let the haunts of profligacy and vice be surveyed, and his *ability* to lay by a portion of his wages will cease to be a matter of doubt. The question then is, Whether you do not, by *giving* him that which he has the power to *purchase*, diminish the value of what you bestow, and confirm rather than counteract the influence of habit?

4. But considerations of infinitely higher moment are involved. Every observation submitted in the preceding chapters, with regard to the tendency of Bible Associations to purify and elevate the tone of moral feeling, and to awaken the benevolent principle, applies with increased force to seamen. The very nature of their occupation furnishes an argument to strengthen the appeal. Every region they visit supplies a claim on their sympathy and kindness. But to excite and cherish the *inclination* to do good, they must be told *how* it can be effected, and instructed in the mode of proceeding. This is one of the most important objects of a Marine Bible Society.

5. The experience of several years justifies the assertion, that the *gratuitous* distribution of the Scriptures at home is neither necessary nor prudent. A general desire, not only to possess, but to assist in disseminating the sacred records, is rapidly increasing throughout the kingdom; and there cannot be a doubt, that, by the adoption of proper measures, our seamen will participate in this feeling, and manifest a similar desire to leave the funds of the Parent Society free, for those great and extended objects of foreign usefulness which are daily assuming a more important aspect.

6. It is respectfully submitted, that the instances already adduced confirm the justice of those remarks, and illustrate their tendency. But in order to place the subject in a more clear and practical point of view, the following recapitulation seems necessary:—

1. The *Whitby*, *Hull*, and *Aberdeen* Societies, collectively, have *purchased at the cost prices*, and distributed *by sale* . . . . . } 3771 Bibles & Testaments.

Remitted, *for the general object of the Parent Institution*, a surplus balance of . . . . . } £. 113 . 9 . 3

And already report the establishment of *Twenty-five Bible Associations* on board the ships visited by them.

Comparative results.—Marine Bible Societies established in America.

II. The *London* Merchant-Seamen's Society has distributed *gratuitously*	9100 Bibles & Testaments.
By sale	3053 ditto.
Received from the Parent Society, by the *remission* of the balance due to that institution for Bibles and Testaments	£. 1500.

And has not yet reported the establishment of any Bible Associations on board the ships visited.

7. In submitting this comparative statement, it is far from the author's design to infer that the Committee of the Merchant-Seamen's Society have been remiss, in the discharge of the important duties confided to them. In their Annual Report for 1820, they express, in strong terms, "the regret and disappointment they have felt at the backwardness which has been shewn by the merchants and ship-owners *in general* to promote the society's objects, notwithstanding all possible means had been adopted to endeavour to awaken the interest, and obtain the countenance of this respectable and opulent class of society." And it appears, by a comparison of that Report with the statement submitted to the annual meeting in 1819, that a material improvement had taken place in the mode of distribution; the proportion of gratuitous grants to sales, during the first year, being as *nine to one*, but in the second as *four to one*. That this improvement has been progressive during the third year, the comparative statement given in the preceding division of this section affords a gratifying evidence. Still it must be acknowledged, that even the present state of this society is not such as becomes the metropolis of the British Empire, and the first mercantile sea-port of the world. If there be any defects in its constitution, the candour, the talents, and the piety of those who superintend its executive details, afford the best pledge that they will be remedied: but it depends on the merchants, ship-owners, and underwriters of London, whether this important institution shall assume the high and distinguished rank to which it is so eminently entitled.

8. In no part of the world has the importance of Marine Bible Societies been more sensibly felt, than in the United States of America. Second only to Great Britain in the extent of her mercantile navy, that country manifested, at an early period, a cordial interest in a design so peculiarly calculated to elevate the moral character of her seamen. In the spring of 1816, a Marine Association was established at Philadelphia, countenanced and supported by the merchants of

that city. This example was speedily followed by *New York*, *Charleston*, and *Newhaven*; and there is every reason to hope that it will gradually extend to every sea-port of the American Union. The Annual Reports of these societies, and of the local institutions with which they are respectively connected, afford the most gratifying testimonies of their beneficial effects. Of these, the following will be read with peculiar interest:—

"The Chaplain at the navy-yard, after circulating among the crew of the *Hornet* sloop of war some copies of the First Report of the society, and exhibiting to them the importance of possessing the holy scriptures, received the following address, which he inclosed to the Secretary in a letter, wherein he remarks:—'Judge for yourself; for I have not language to express, what must have been the state of my feelings, when the inclosed paper was put into my hands this day. I have ascertained that it was written, without any assistance, by a common seaman:—

'*To the Rev.* JOHN IRELAND—

'We the subscribers, fully impressed with the importance of the truths promulgated by you, kind sir, to the crew of the Hornet this day, are desirous of uniting with our Christian brethren in the dispersion of the Gospel of that JESUS to whom we all look as our common Saviour; and for that purpose (with our grateful thanks to you for your kind attention), do agree to allow, out of our monthly pay, the mites affixed to our respective names, to the Bible Marine Society, in support of so generous, so worthy, and so charitable an institution.

'*New York, Feb.* 1, 1818.'

"This was signed by fifty of the crew. The sums affixed to their names were from six cents. to one dollar a month; the whole amounting, during the two years for which they subscribed, to about two hundred dollars. This being communicated to the Board, they immediately passed a resolution expressive of their high approbation of this truly generous and praiseworthy conduct; and, as a testimony of their regard, presented to each of the men a Bible. The purser of the Hornet agreeing to deduct from their wages the sums subscribed, they received their certificates of membership. When the resolution was communicated, several of the crew became members for life."

"A short time since, a seaman called on one of the managers, and proposed giving a dollar to the Marine Bible Society. He observed, that after the Bible was put on board the vessel in which he sailed, his companions, instead of assembling together to gamble and drink, as they formerly had done, would surround any one who was disposed to read the Bible, and listen to the instructions of heavenly wisdom."

"A ship from this port received at Canton a Bible from another ship belonging to this country. The crew, consisting of about thirty, began to read it, and soon became dissatisfied with their former mode of spending their leisure hours. They destroyed a pack of cards which was on board; and, during their voyage home, frequently assembled to read the Bible. Not satisfied with one copy, they resolved, that, should they arrive in New York, they would have Bibles of their own. Several of these men have joined the society."

The Committee of the New-York Marine Bible Society, from whose Second Annual Report the preceding Extracts are taken, pointedly observe:—"Of the Bibles distributed by this Society, we

do not know of a single instance of improper usage: but we know of many in which the most happy effects have been produced."

In the same Report, a remark is offered, which well deserves the serious consideration, not only of the Committees of Marine Bible Societies, but of every individual connected with shipping, who rightly appreciates his own interest:—

"We must avail ourselves of this opportunity to suggest to merchants, ship-owners, and captains, who are desirous of promoting the best interests of seamen, the importance of giving a preference to those men who are members of this society, a list of whom may always be found at the depository. Seamen, in order to be benefitted in this way, must report their names at the depository, whenever they come in from sea, or are in want of employment."

The following letter from Captain *W. B. Osman*, of the ship *Pacific*, was transmitted, in the autumn of 1817, to the President of the Philadelphia Marine Society, with a box of Chinese silks; and holds out an example worthy of general imitation:—

"SIR—On my departure for Canton, last year, you did me the favour of placing in my hands a number of copies of the Holy Bible, for the purpose of distribution. I have now the satisfaction to inform you, that, in every instance, they have been received with emotions of joy and gratitude.

"Highly appreciating the objects of your institution, while at Canton, I originated, among our countrymen there, a subscription in aid of your funds; and feel much pleasure in communicating to you the result. One hundred dollars were paid to me at Canton, and seventy dollars subscribed payable in Philadelphia. Believing that the interest of the society would be promoted by the measure, I invested the hundred dollars in Canton goods; which, together with the original book of subscription, and thirty dollars since collected, I now commit to your care, with my warmest wishes for the prosperity and usefulness of your association. If this humble effort to subserve the cause of religion and truth should meet your approbation, I shall be amply rewarded. W. B. OSMAN."

9. In the year 1818, a Marine Bible Association was formed in the city of *Stockholm*, which distributed, within the first year, nearly three hundred New Testaments to the seamen belonging to the squadron in ordinary at that port. "But (observe the Committee) there are still three hundred more marines, and seven hundred enrolled seamen, who are looking up to your Committee to fulfil their hopes, which have been so long deferred: the intention is, to give each of them a New Testament in duodecimo, that it may be carried either in their knapsacks or tea-chests, when ordered upon duty."

"Eternity's vast ocean lies before us.
Give the mind sea-room; keep it wide of earth,
That rock of souls immortal; cut the cord,
Weigh anchor, spread the sails, call every wind,
Eye the great Pole Star—make the LAND OF LIFE!"

Grand Junction and General Canal Association.

This appears to be the most suitable place for introducing a brief sketch of an institution, which holds a kind of intermediate rank between Marine Bible Societies and those of a more general description. The establishment referred to was formed at Paddington, on the 20th of March 1816, and was designated "THE GRAND JUNCTION AND GENERAL CANAL BIBLE ASSOCIATION," under the distinguished patronage of the Bishops of Durham, Norwich, and Gloucester; and conducted by a President, Treasurer, three Secretaries, and a Committee consisting of thirty-three other gentlemen. The object of this Association was defined in an Address, from which the following is an extract:—

"The number of persons employed in navigating the boats on the Grand Junction and other canals, is estimated at about 6000: including their wives and families, the number is probably not less than 20,000. These may be said almost to *live* upon the water; and, by the peculiar nature of their occupation, are precluded all opportunity of attending public worship on the sabbath-day. For this deprivation, no remedy offers itself, equal to that of providing them with copies of the holy scriptures. The BIBLE is the word of life;—it is the Christian's grand charter; it is his guide through a world of sorrow to a world of happiness; it is the rich man's best treasure; the poor man's best friend. The object of this institution is therefore to supply these people with Bibles and Testaments at cost or reduced prices. The experiment has already been made; and the proposal has been most cordially and gratefully received: many Bibles and Testaments have been eagerly purchased; and there appears, on inquiry, a great and increasing desire to possess the Word of GOD."

On the establishment of this society, a grant of three hundred Bibles and Testaments was immediately made by the Committee of the Parent Institution, of which the major proportion were speedily and gratefully purchased by the boatmen. In the spring of 1818, it was deemed advisable to unite this association to the North-West London Auxiliary Society, a measure which has been attended with very considerable advantage. As the constitution of this society is precisely similar to that of other associations,—although its object, as already observed, is restricted to the supply of the canal boatmen and their families,—it is only necessary to add the following summary of its results:—

Total Amount paid to the Auxiliary Society . .	£. 45 . 0 . 10
Total Number of Bibles and Testaments distributed . .	426.

Nor has the progress of this little Association been unaccompanied by those collateral benefits which never fail to follow the establishment of Bible Societies. At an early period after its formation, a "*Canal School*" was instituted at Paddington,

School for the Education of Children of Boatmen.

for the education of the children of the boatmen; in reference to whom the Committee of the Auxiliary Society observe:—

"There are already more than 150 children, lately running about the wharfs in idleness and ignorance, but now making a progress in reading and writing, and especially in a knowledge of the Bible, which has been truly gratifying and surprising to all who have attended in order to examine them. It is but a just tribute to a humble and worthy individual, to state, that this school owed its commencement to the zeal and benevolence of *a gentleman's servant*, who had frequently witnessed with regret the ignorance of these boatmen's children, and which induced him modestly to exert what influence he possessed with others in their behalf, in which he succeeded beyond his most ardent expectation. It should also be subjoined, as a fair addition to this sketch, that, besides certain small donations, this individual has tendered his name as a subscriber of not less than a guinea a year."

In reference to this particular subject, it would be unjust to omit an allusion to the exemplary Committee of the *Uxbridge* Auxiliary Society, who adopted measures in the year 1812 for supplying this long-neglected class of men with the holy scriptures, by allotting a Bible of a large print to each of the barges navigating the canal between Brentford and Rickmansworth. In order more effectually to insure the object of this benefaction, they directed the Bible to be attached to the barge itself, by a printed label specifying its name, and inviting all persons employed therein to avail themselves of the privilege of reading it. It is earnestly hoped that those examples will be more generally followed by Local Bible Societies on the line of our numerous canals and navigable rivers; and that those who feel interested in the moral and spiritual welfare of this class of our labouring population, will co-operate in this work of mercy, anticipating His blessing, who hath said, "*Cast thy bread upon the waters; for thou shalt find it after many days.*"

CHAP. VII.

LADIES' BIBLE SOCIETIES.

"SHE STRETCHETH OUT HER HAND TO THE POOR; YEA, SHE REACHETH FORTH HER HANDS TO THE NEEDY." *PROVERBS*, XXXI. 20.

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS.

1. IN no respect is the present age more peculiarly distinguished, than by the disposition so strongly and generally manifested by the Female Sex to co-operate in those extensive plans of mercy and benevolence, which have shed around it a lustre unknown to any former period. To those who are acquainted with the modern literature of our country, it must be evident that a great and important change has gradually taken place in the Female character;—that the intellectual powers have been more diligently studied and assiduously cultivated; the superiority of mental pursuits more fully appreciated; and that, without forfeiting a particle of that delicacy, for the sacrifice of which no attainment can compensate, Woman has assumed a higher title to our admiration and esteem. Nor is it less obvious, that this general improvement is owing, in no inconsiderable degree, to the admirable writings of many enlightened females, and especially to those of one venerable character, who may justly be entitled the Moralist of her Sex. But it is the *practical* application of the lessons thus acquired, which we are now called on to contemplate. The acquisition of knowledge, however extensive, loses half its value if it be not communicated to others; and that benevolence is of a very questionable nature, which can rest satisfied with a desire to be useful, but makes no sacrifice and no effort to accomplish the object of its wishes. Happily for the interests of our country and of humanity; happily for the children of poverty and wretchedness; the Women of Great Britain have afforded an illustration, unequalled in the annals of the world, of a truth which no sophistry can hereafter successfully assail,—that the cultivation of the mind

is not incompatible with the indulgence of the best feelings of the heart. We behold them assisting, with steady perseverance, in those various plans for the education of the poor, to which the public attention has been at length awakened: we see them ascertaining, by patient and painful investigation, the nature and extent of human suffering, in its most obscure abodes; and applying, with system and effect, those remedies which strike directly at its source: and we may follow their noiseless footsteps into the receptacles of guilt and misery—into those gloomy mansions from which *ours* have too long shrunk back appalled—and mark the transformation which gentleness, wisdom, and religion, can produce within the walls of a dungeon. It is in the contemplation of scenes like these that Christianity appears in all her loveliness, because consistent with herself, by exhibiting the necessary and indispensable connexion of faith and works, of knowledge and obedience. Nor is there, in the records of Benevolence, a more striking evidence of this consistency, than that which now demands our consideration. Strange indeed would it have been, had the Females of Great Britain pursued the path of duty in any light but that which is reflected from the BIBLE; and stranger still, had they hesitated to co-operate in promoting its universal diffusion!

2. It cannot however be denied, that some real friends of the Bible Society have been disposed to question the propriety and expediency of Female exertion in this great and good work: and although their fears have almost invariably subsided, wherever Ladies' Societies have been established, the acknowledged importance of the subject, and the progressive extension of the system, not only throughout this kingdom, but in foreign countries, demand an investigation of the nature and extent of those doubts which have been suggested, and which, in many instances, have arisen from ignorance or misrepresentation of the plan adopted and pursued. To those who can perceive no impropriety in admitting individuals of the female sex to the participation of the duties and privileges of practical benevolence, this inquiry must appear altogether superfluous; since *they* cannot find, either in Scripture or common sense, an adequate reason for depriving one half of our species of the highest source of gratification of which it is susceptible—the manifestation of *love to God*, by "*good-will to men.*" If it be right that they should assist in the education of the poor, it cannot be wrong that they should circulate that sacred volume, which is the only solid foundation of moral instruction, and by which they are enjoined to

Domestic duties not neglected.

train up children "*in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.*" If it be proper that they should visit the habitations of indigence, for the purpose of alleviating the miseries of their fellow-creatures, it cannot be improper to refer the sons and daughters of affliction to the only source of consolation and support. If we behold with admiration the success of their persevering efforts, to reclaim the vicious, and reform the criminal, shall we withhold the tribute of praise, when the same zeal and prudence are displayed in circulating the everlasting Gospel of HIM who came "*to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound?*" If it be deemed consistent with the highest attributes of the Female character, to administer to the temporal necessities of the poor and destitute, but inconsistent to supply them with spiritual food, we admit a paradox which reason and Scripture alike reject,—that the evil is dependent on the value of the blessing conferred;—that it is right to dispense an inferior good, but improper to bestow the highest gift which one created being can communicate to another.

3. *But it has been asked, whether Ladies could devote the requisite portion of time to these labours, without neglecting their domestic duties, relaxing in their attention to other benevolent establishments, or forfeiting some portion of that delicacy which is the peculiar ornament of the female character. These are questions which should be openly and candidly met, and satisfactorily answered; for no consideration can sanction a measure susceptible of the evils which such questions pre-suppose.

In reference to the first inquiry, it might well be asked, What are the purposes for which time and health are bestowed upon us? Is there no *practical* meaning in the Divine injunction, *Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself?* Are sordid cares and pleasures to absorb every thought? or shall the current of benevolence be restrained within the narrow limits of a cold and heartless calculation, till it stagnate into selfishness?—But let the objection be fairly met: we have the best

* Should the reader perceive a similarity in some of these remarks to a passage in the Fourth Annual Report of the Henley Auxiliary Bible Society, it will be accounted for, by observing that the latter was drawn up by the author of the present work. He takes, however, this opportunity to disclaim an objectionable passage in the *Appendix* to that Report, which was penned by another hand; and cheerfully repeats the candid acknowledgment of the gentleman alluded to, that "no one more regrets the publication of the passage in question, than the person who unguardedly first committed it to paper."

evidence—that of the Ladies themselves—that they *gain* time by this apparent sacrifice, in those habits of system, diligence, and attention, which they have acquired:—they have become economists of time, by perceiving more clearly its incalculable worth. To the fathers, the husbands, and the brothers of those who are thus occupied, the author would confidently appeal for a refutation of the objection involved in this question:—*they* are the only competent judges in such a case; and *they* are well aware that their family arrangements are not worse ordered and conducted, in consequence of the offering thus made on the altar of Christian charity.

The second inquiry finds its best reply in the present state of every district wherein a Bible Association is established. Never were the wants, the feelings, and the dispositions of the poor, *so* accurately known, nor their distresses *so* promptly and effectually relieved: and it should be remembered, that this investigation is made, and this relief extended, principally, by the active members of those institutions. As this part of the subject will be more fully considered in Sect. VI. of this chapter, it may be sufficient at present to observe, that Bible Associations have not only given a stimulus to local feeling, and thereby induced the establishment of philanthropic societies, but have also fed the flame which they were made the instruments of kindling.

With respect to the last question, it might, indeed, have some ground for support, if the *public* proceedings of these institutions devolved on females. But this is not the case: they are conducted, *exclusively*, by the gentlemen of the Auxiliary or Branch Committee with which the Associations are respectively connected; and at the general meetings of the latter, those on whom the previous labour had fallen are unknown and undistinguished. Is it then in the weekly visits to the habitations of the poor that we are to trace the elements of indecorum? If so, it must be wrong to visit them for *any* purpose; and benevolence is monopolized by one sex, to the total exclusion of the other. But where are the grounds for this fear, or the solitary fact by which it is supported? Would those who profess to entertain it, leave the industrious classes of society a prey to artful and designing men; and suffer the poison of infidelity to be infused or circulate through the veins of our country, without applying the antidote which God has provided, in that manner which the experience of nine years has confessedly proved to be the most efficient? If such objectors were influenced by right motives, and would only approach a little nearer, and examine

Effect of Biblical engagements on the character of Collectors.

the practical tendency of those measures which they condemn, they would speedily perceive the fallacy of their argument: they would acknowledge, that the robe of modesty was never tarnished by being brought into contact with the mantle of poverty; that the tear of the widow has never soiled, nor the sigh of the orphan blown aside, the veil of feminine delicacy; and that the eye of heavenly charity has never lighted on a scene more accordant with the purity of its nature, than WOMAN entering the poor man's cottage, and bearing to penury, ignorance, and woe, the glad tidings of mercy, peace, and happiness!

4. On such a subject, the most unequivocal testimony is necessary: and the author gladly avails himself of a recent publication,* wherein the inquiries to which he has alluded are answered, in a manner that precludes the necessity of apologising for the length of the following extracts, which merit a far more extensive circulation than that of a local report.

"To the formation of Ladies' Associations and their collecting amongst the houses of the poor, objections have been made. It has been said by parents, that the *time* of their daughters is so taken up in the acquisition of the different branches of knowledge, that such occupations would occasion an injurious interruption. But the sacrifice of time is not great; for after the first inquiry to ascertain what is the actual want of Bibles in the district, one hour is amply sufficient for the weekly collection; and the meeting of the association, at which it is necessary for the collectors to give in their contributions, occurs but once in the month, and then occupies only two hours at the most. This therefore cannot be a very *injurious* demand upon the time of the most studious: but were the sacrifice required much greater, surely in this enlightened age it will not be contended that mere accomplishment is the sole or even principal end of education: and if its true and legitimate aim be to form the character by the operation of proper principles, and to ameliorate the heart by exciting it to virtuous feeling, then the influence of these exertions in the sacred cause of humanity and religion will be found a most powerful and efficacious auxiliary; and the circumstance, that it begins its operation when the routine of education usually ceases, will plead strongly in its favour. Indeed, it appears to your Committee, that the estimate of benefits arising from the Bible Society, in its influence on individual character, has either not yet been made with sufficient accuracy, or at least has not met with the attention it deserves. The human mind is formed for activity; and if not occupied with what is great and noble, will become the prey of what is mean and contemptible. If not expanded by benevolence, it will contract into selfishness; and if not trained to exertion and virtuous self-denial, will repose itself in listless indolence, or indulge in unrestrained self-gratification. The contrast of character arising from the effects of such opposing habits of mind, it cannot be necessary to exhibit; for even where Religion does not exert her full influence, the attraction of Virtue in her own

* Third Annual Report of the Ladies' Branch of the Manchester and Salford Auxiliary Bible Society.

Gratitude of the Labouring Classes.

native loveliness will determine the point: and it only remains for the Committee to exhort those whose hearts have thus decided, to act in unison with their own decision, and to reject the inconsistency of opposing, by their conduct, the principles which they openly profess and internally approve.

"The *indecorum* of young women entering alone into the cottages of the poor, where their feelings might be hurt by improper language, or their delicacy wounded by witnessing unpleasant scenes, has been brought forward as another argument against such associations. In answer to this, your Committee appeal to the experience of those ladies, who have ventured, notwithstanding these predicted dangers, to undertake the office of collectors. That they have observed a striking difference among the poor cannot be denied; but this difference has only operated as a stimulus to further exertion: for where they have witnessed comfort, cleanliness, and respectability, they have almost universally found the Bible; and where they have encountered poverty, wretchedness, and filth, the Bible either has not been possessed, or has been utterly disregarded. And with respect to the collectors themselves, they believe that they may venture to affirm, that they have, generally speaking, been received with civility and treated with respect; or, if at first, in some instances, regarded with a degree of jealous apprehension, they have, in their subsequent visits, been delighted to see the scowling eye of distrust softened to the expression of welcome confidence; the look of defiance brightened into the smile of peace; and the countenance clad with cold indifference, warmed by the glow of animated pleasure. Such an intercourse with their superiors is calculated, at once, to soften and humanize the manners and sentiments of the lower orders, to discover their wants and distresses to those who are able and willing to relieve them; and, what is a point of no small importance, to form a bond of union, a connecting link, between the higher and lower classes of the community, which may be capable, in some degree, of supplying the place of those relations, which the present artificial state of society has dissolved, and the want of which is already so severely felt. It cannot be denied, that the exchange of mutual benefits has a tendency to soften and ameliorate the heart; and therefore, both the ladies, and those they visit, may be expected to be gainers by this intercourse. But if it still be said, that it is calculated to impair, if not entirely to destroy, the *delicacy* and refinement of manners, so estimable and necessary to the female character;—to the injury done to the manners, your Committee might well oppose the benefit gained to the heart. But they venture to take a higher ground, and to assert, that this apprehended deterioration is wholly imaginary. That which improves the mind can never injure the manners; for manner is but the expression of mind, the image of internal feeling reflected by external conduct; and that polish of manner which usually distinguishes well-educated persons is to be traced to the influence which education has had upon their minds. The sickly refinement, fastidious delicacy, and helpless dependence of females, which was the idol of former years, has, if they mistake not, been exploded by the better taste and sense of the present age; and if genuine sensibility, and tenderness of feeling, be the only real source of that propriety, modesty, and retirement of behaviour, which all admit to be essential to the perfection of the female character, then your Committee contend, that nothing is to be feared, on this account, for those whose benevolence may lead them to the cottages of the poor; where, be it always remembered, the intercourse carried on is that of humanity and kindness on the one side, and of respectful gratitude on the other."

The following remarks, though not so immediately con-

The sacrifice on the part of the Poor is voluntary.

nected with this particular branch of the subject, are too valuable to be omitted:—

"It has, however, been objected by some benevolent persons, who appear to have confined their attention to one view of the subject, that the poor are *oppressed* by the contributions required from them, and that they are induced to give what would be better spent upon their families. In answer to this, it may be observed, that all that the collectors undertake, is to explain the purpose of their errand, and set before them the advantages of possessing a Bible. They are then left to decide for themselves—either to give or to withhold—and to proportion their contributions to their means: and as the smallest sum is never rejected, or received with contempt, they can have no inducement to give beyond their means. Free contributions from the labouring classes bear a very small proportion to the whole amount collected, and, where they have been received, have always been voluntarily given: nor have the collectors been willing, by refusing them, to deprive others of a participation in those benevolent feelings, which have contributed so largely to their own gratification. By such conduct, the poor are elevated from the rank of beggars, to that of the benefactors of mankind; and in teaching them to be generous towards others, they learn to be just to themselves, to rise from that state of helpless dependence which degrades their moral character, and to cultivate those virtues which ennoble and adorn it. To teach the poor man to respect himself, is the only method of restoring to him that feeling of honest independence, the want of which is so universally acknowledged and lamented. But to accomplish this, it is necessary to shew him his own powers and resources; and whether this can be more effectually done, than by giving him habits of liberal feeling, and prudent economy in order to gratify such feelings, your Committee willingly leave it to the candour of the public to decide."

"At a period like this, when the minds of the lower orders have been exasperated by the heavy pressure of calamity, the peaceful influence of the Bible Society is peculiarly needed. Steeped in poverty, and drinking the bitter cup of suffering to its last dregs, the poor have been artfully taught to regard their superiors with suspicion and dislike. Left to struggle alone with the complicated hardships of their lot, unpitied and unknown; and driven almost to desperation by the distresses, which they have been made to believe were wantonly entailed upon them by the great; revenge for imaginary wrongs, and what they called their injured rights, has appeared, in too many instances, to usurp the place of better principles. Such instances have been met with by the collectors, in their respective districts. But the voice of compassion has struck upon their ears, and their hearts have vibrated to the unwonted sound: the look of pity, or the tear of sympathy, has awoke the kindlier feelings of humanity from their long and death-like sleep: their bosom has expanded to the reception of better sentiments; and envy, hate, and vengeance, the demons of the human mind, have fled before the benignant influence of love and pity; while resigned submission, and patient hope, have occupied their place.

"Ye who mingle in the scenes of gaiety and splendour, revel in the luxuries of imagination, or tread the fairy fields of pleasure, and, dazzled by the gay and brilliant prospect that surrounds you, alike forget that a clouded atmosphere may ere long eclipse in darkness those sun-beams that now shine upon your meridian of happiness, or that there is beyond the limits of your horizon a dark and dreary region, inhabited by want and wretchedness and woe—listen to the voice of those who have awakened from the dream that hitherto has enchanted you; hear them tell what they have

witnessed, in their visits of mercy, of human misery and of more than human joys; hear them declare what they have too frequently found the poor, and what they have sometimes had the happiness to leave them; hear them describe the pure and holy pleasure that attends the consciousness of their awakening the miserable to the perception of happiness: and then say, whether the cause they advocate is not wisest, best, and happiest; and whether the enjoyment which selfish pleasure yields, can for a moment bear comparison with that which flows from benevolent exertion. Your Committee do not say that you will have no difficulties to encounter, and no personal sacrifices to make; but they assure you, that the pleasure you will receive in the performance of these kind acts of charity, will more than a thousand times repay you for any others that you may forego."

5. To these admirable observations it would be unnecessary to add any thing in the way of defence, if those who still entertain a doubt on the subject admitted a Committee of Ladies to be competent judges of the case. The following extract from the Sixth Annual Report of the Glasgow Auxiliary Society may therefore be perused, by such individuals, with more attention, as expressive of the unanimous sentiments of a body of gentlemen, comprising no common portion of intellect, acuteness, and discretion:—

"Far be it from your Committee to recommend any scheme for your adoption, incompatible with that retiring delicacy, which is the loveliest beauty of the female character,—any scheme that would divest the Christian Fair of that ornament 'which is in the sight of GOD of great price, the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit;'—that would 'quench the blushes' of feminine sensibility, or fix, in the openness of masculine effrontery, the downcast eyelids of modesty. But, in the inspired records of Christianity, your Committee read of the Marys and Priscillas, the Tryphenas and Tryphosas, of early times, on whom, for their active co-operation in the cause of the Gospel, apostolic commendation is bestowed; and in whom respectively, by such commendation, the words of the Saviour, with regard to another female, when she gave a silent but costly expression of her grateful attachment, have been verified,—'Verily, I say unto you, Wheresoever this Gospel of the kingdom shall be preached, throughout the whole world, there also shall this, which this woman hath done, be told for a memorial of her.' Your Committee feel themselves warranted in assuming, that, where inspired approbation is bestowed, there could be no departure from the delicacies and proprieties of female deportment. And if, without such departure, Christian women of old rendered essential service to the progress of truth, it seems a reasonable inference that, by the same description of agency, similar service may and ought to be rendered still. This conviction, indeed, has already been acted upon by the Ladies of Glasgow, in support of various benevolent objects, in a way eminently to their credit: and your Committee are fully persuaded, that there is nothing wanting, but the marking out of a field of appropriate exertion, and an invitation from you to occupy it, to bring forward multitudes, 'whose hearts GOD has touched,' to consecrate the energies of youth, and the experience of maturer years, to the all-important interests of the Bible Society."

6. In selecting from the mass of testimonies in favour of Ladies' Bible Societies, those which may place the subject in every point of view of which it is susceptible, it would be

unjust to omit that of a venerable prelate of the Protestant Episcopal Church of America, the right reverend Bishop White, from whose admirable Address to the Female Bible Society of Philadelphia the following extracts appear peculiarly appropriate:—

"If there should press on the minds of any of you, the apprehension of exceeding the bounds which the modesty of your sex prescribes, it does not appear to me that there is the least ground for such reproach, so long as the Association is within yourselves. As to the circumstance, that some of you will be called upon to act in certain official characters necessary for the conducting of business, if we look beyond names, there is nothing in the subject itself, but what would apply, with equal force, against the presiding at a dinner, or at a tea-table; unless, indeed, it could be alleged, that this is less alien from the female character than the gathering and the dispensing of alms. But this is a sentiment which, it is supposed, will hardly be hazarded by the most jealous assertors of the prerogatives of the men.

"It is one of the most conspicuous of the many beneficent properties of the Scriptures, that they are the charter of the female sex against degradation and oppression. Look at the condition of women in the countries where the religion of the Gospel is unknown; and all the arrangements of domestic life will be found a comment on the position. Can it then be out of the sphere of your sex, to be actively engaged in disseminating a system of truth and morals, which has so excellent a bearing immediately on your interests; and, through you, on whatever contributes to the rectitude, to the decorum, and to the rational enjoyments of social life?

"You have also this especial interest in the same sacred treasure, that, of our sex, as well as of your own, you are the earliest instructors in morality and in religion: and what is there deserving to be commended as moral or religious, if detached from the lessons which speak so immediately from the oracles of God to the best sensibilities of the human heart? Under so loud a call as this, to the estimation of the Bible, surely you cannot be stepping out of your proper sphere, by being prominent in measures for the depositing of it in such needy families as would otherwise be without the means which you enjoy, of rendering it salutary to their rising hopes.

"If there were nothing more than the undeniable property of the human condition, that, under all states of society, the women sustain the greatest share of its sorrows, it must give them an essential interest in the best source of countervailing consolation: that source is, the Word of truth. This being the case, can it be out of character, where pecuniary means are within the power, to add their personal attention and exertion for the extending of so inestimable a benefit?

"It has been thought an incidental advantage arising from Bible Societies, that, by combining persons of different religious denominations, they have the effect of promoting unity of affection, under irreconcileable differences of opinion. The British and Foreign Bible Society set off on the fundamental principle, of avoiding whatever could bring such diversity into view. They professed to deliver the Book of God without note or comment. The societies instituted in America have trodden in their steps. While this plan shall be pursued, there can be no dissatisfaction on account of interfering opinions or modes of worship. Is it possible that such a course can be persevered in, without its contributing to all the charities of life? And if this is the natural consequence, can any scruple be well-founded which would restrict the benefit to men?

Official testimony of the Parent Society.

"I will only add, that, contemplating the recent institution of Bible Societies, begun in England, and extending rapidly throughout the world, as a prodigious effort for the raising of a mound against the threatening inundation of infidelity; as being also one of the happiest expedients which have been devised, for spreading the knowledge of the Gospel of Christ; and as tending directly to the accomplishment of the assurances given, that His kingdom will at last be co-extensive with the world; I will not suffer myself to believe that your sex, any more than ours, are debarred from promoting these blessed ends, in your distinctive character. Accordingly, I take the liberty of exhorting you to persevere in the work begun, and of assuring you of my best wishes, and my prayers for your success."

7. That the results of Ladies' Bible Associations, and the conduct of those who take an active part in their concerns, have fully justified the observations just quoted, and amply satisfied the warmest friends to these institutions, is a fact which, however gratifying, excites no surprise. It is precisely what was anticipated from British and from *Christian* Females:—*they* have remembered, that it was by honoured individuals of their sex the REDEEMER of the World was attended, during his sojourn upon earth; that they "*ministered to Him of their substance;*"—followed Him even unto Calvary; and were the last to leave His cross, and the first to announce His glorious resurrection from the dead:—*they* have borne in mind, that it was to a Woman the encouraging language was addressed, "*She hath done what she could:*" and in assisting to distribute the divine legacy of His Gospel, they have found they were fulfilling one of their highest duties, exercising one of their dearest privileges, and promoting their own happiness and peace.

The following official testimony to the value of those institutions, extracted from the Sixteenth Report of the Parent Society, supplies an appropriate conclusion of these remarks:—

"Your Committee have often expressed their high opinion of the various advantages derivable from Bible Associations; and in that opinion they find themselves, by progressive experience, continually more confirmed. Whether they look to the increase of the funds of the Society, or the improving tendency of its local operations, they find ample ground for regarding Bible Associations as deserving the warmest commendation, and the most decided encouragement and support. These remarks, which comprehend Bible Associations in general, are particularly applicable to those which are constituted and conducted by the Female portion of the community. In every part of the country, where the trial has been correctly made, Ladies' Bible Associations have justified the strong language in which your Committee have recommended, and in which they think it their duty again to recommend, their establishment in connexion with the Auxiliary Societies of the District."

Letter from Pastor Oberlin, of Walbach.—Sophia Bernard.

SECTION I.

ORIGIN OF FEMALE BIBLE SOCIETIES.

1. In tracing this stream of Christian charity to its source, we shall find the spring among the mountains of Alsace. If there be any man to whom the merit of opening the fountain appertains, it is Pastor OBERLIN, of Walbach, in the Ban de la Roche. It was the perusal of a letter from this extraordinary man, in the Appendix to the First Annual Report of the British and Foreign Bible Society, that originally suggested to the author of the present work, the possibility of interesting the Females of Great Britain in the cause of that institution: and as this communication breathes a spirit which cannot be too widely diffused, no apology will be necessary for introducing the following extracts.* After expressing his gratitude for a donation of 30*l.* for the purpose of purchasing and distributing French and German Bibles among the poor inhabitants of that sequestered region, he observes:—

"I have made a list of such persons as I consider most deserving of such a present. Among the large number of individuals and families to whom a Bible is a most welcome present, I first put down such characters as are most active in promoting the Redeemer's kingdom, and in doing good to the bodies and souls of their fellow-men.

1. "The *first* Bible shall be given as a present to SOPHIA BERNARD, who is one of the most excellent women I know, and, indeed, an ornament to my parish. While unmarried, she undertook, with the consent of her parents, the support and education of three helpless boys, whom their wicked father had often trampled under his feet, and treated in a manner too shocking to relate, when nearly starving with hunger they dared to cry out for food. Soon afterwards, she proved the happy means of saving the lives of four Roman-Catholic children, who, without her assistance, would have fallen a prey to want and famine. Thus she had the management of seven children, to whom several more were added, belonging to members of three several denominations: she now hired a house and a servant-girl, and supported the whole of the family entirely with her own work, and the little money she got from the industry of the children, whom she taught to spin cotton. At the same time, she proved the greatest blessing to the whole village where she lived: for it is impossible to be more industrious, frugal, clean, cheerful, edifying by her whole walk and conversation; more ready for every good word and work; more mild and affectionate, more firm and resolute in dangers, than she was. Satan so enraged some of her enemies, that they threatened to destroy her old tottering cottage; but God was graciously pleased to preserve her. A fine youth, of a noble mind, made her an offer of his hand. She first refused, but he declared he would wait

* See Owen's History, Volume III. page 420 *et seq.* for an animated sketch of this venerable character, who, "with the simplicity of a patriarch, and the zeal of an Apostle, has done so much to promote both the temporal and the spiritual welfare of his charge."

for her even ten years. When she replied, that she could never consent to part with her poor orphans, he nobly answered, 'Whoever takes the mother, takes the children too.' So he did—and all these children were brought up by them in the most careful and excellent manner. Lately, they have taken in some other orphans, whom they are training up in the fear and love of God. Though these excellent people pass rather for rich, yet their income is so limited, and their benevolence so extensive, that sometimes they hardly know how to furnish a new suit of necessary clothes. To them I intend to give a Bible, considering that their own is very often lent out in different Roman-Catholic villages.

2. "A *second* Bible I intend to give to an excellent woman, MARIA SCHEPLER, who lives at the opposite end of my extensive parish, where the cold is more severe, and the ground unfruitful; so that nearly all the householders are poor people, who must lend their clothes to each other when they intend to go to the Lord's Supper. This poor woman is also a very distinguished character, in whose praise I could say much, were I to enter into particulars. Though distressed and afflicted in her own person and circumstances, yet she is a mother, benefactress, and teacher to the whole village where she lives, and to some neighbouring districts too. She takes the most lively interest in all which relates to the Redeemer's kingdom upon earth, and often groans under a sense of all the inroads made by the powers of darkness. She also has brought up several orphans without receiving the smallest reward, keeps a free school for females, and makes it a practice to lend her Bible to such as are entirely deprived of it.

3. "A *third* Bible-present I intend to make to an excellent widow woman, CATHARINE SCHEIDDEGGER, who is, like the former, a mother to orphans, and keeps a free-school; as also does another young woman, who instructs little children in a neighbouring village, in such knowledge as may render them useful members of human and Christian society.

"I might easily enumerate many more characters of a similar description, whose eyes will overflow with grateful tears if they are favoured with the present of a Bible."

How many English Sophias, animated by this example, have directed the fainting steps of the orphan to HIM who is "*a father of the fatherless:*"—how many Marias have become blessings "to the villages wherein they dwell:"—how many Catharines have placed in the hands of children that sacred guide which has taught them "*the way in which they should go!*" May the voice from the mountains of Alsace be still heard in Britain, and her daughters be excited to perseverance in a cause so holy!

2. The idea originally suggested by this communication, was materially strengthened by the result of subsequent inquiry, which established the fact of a desire, on the part of the female sex, to co-operate in this work of mercy. In addition to the "Sheffield Juvenile Bible Society," (*see Chapter* V. *Section* I.), another institution of a remarkable character deserves attention, as a fresh illustration of the tendency and effects of that benevolent spirit which had been awakened in the country, and in its progress gradually per-

vaded every class of the community. "*The Aberdeen Female Servants' Society, for promoting the diffusion of the Scriptures,*" is thus introduced by the Committee of the Edinburgh Bible Society, in their Second Annual Report:—

"Some time ago, a few female-servants in Aberdeen, desirous of testifying their good-will toward the support of these excellent institutions formed of late in the country, for sending the Scriptures, and, by them, the knowledge of salvation, to such as are yet destitute of that inestimable privilege, *Resolved* to meet together, and contribute a little in aid of the funds of such institutions. Their numbers increasing, and having obtained the consent of some ministers of the Gospel to preside at their meetings, they did, on the 16th of August 1809, form themselves into a society, to be called 'The Aberdeen Female Servant Society, for promoting the diffusion of the Scriptures.'

"Grateful that their own humble situations have been cheered by those discoveries and prospects presented in the Bible, the members of the society cannot be indifferent to the condition of such as are yet in darkness and in the shadow of death; persuaded that the present appearance of Divine Providence invites co-operation in the cause of righteousness, from those who, individually, could accomplish little; apprehending perseverance in the course they have begun likely to promote their own religious improvement, and encouraged by what they have hitherto experienced, they have adopted, for the conduct of the society, the following Rules:—

I. The society shall admit as members, such female-servants of decent character, and other females of good report, of different religious denominations, as may be inclined to join them.

II. That the society shall have a general meeting at least once every quarter; the duration of which, for obvious reasons, shall be short; when such ministers of the Gospel as may be favourable to the society, shall be requested to attend, that they may give necessary information and advice.

III. Each member shall pay *one shilling* on admission, and the like sum, or what she can afford, at each quarterly meeting afterwards, to the funds of the society.*

IV. That a Treasurer shall be annually chosen by the society, who shall keep a list of the members, the accounts of the society, and dispose of the funds according to the society's direction.

V. That a Committee shall be chosen annually, consisting of six members of the society; who shall provide for the accommodation of the society at its meetings, warn the other members of the times of the stated and occasional meetings, and bring the contributions of such as may be prevented from giving personal attendance.

VI. The application of the society's funds shall be determined on, only

* It would appear, by the following extract from the Annual Report of the Paisley and East Renfrewshire Auxiliary Society, that this Rule was subsequently modified in its practical application. "Let it be remembered, that the *first Bible Association* consisted of 240 female-servants in a town in Scotland. They had voluntarily associated, even before any Bible Society had been established in that part of the United Kingdom, for the purpose of contributing each a penny a-week, towards the general objects of the British and Foreign Bible Society. *They met at a stated hour, every Saturday evening, and each paid her penny to the persons appointed as Receivers: and such was their punctuality, that though many of them came from a distance, the time occupied in the payment seldom exceeded five minutes.*"

in a general meeting of the society, either at a quarterly meeting, or one called by the ministers who countenance the society, for the express purpose; and in determining how the society shall distribute its funds, it shall be guided by what appears to be the most urgent call of Providence, in behalf of the respective institutions for diffusing the Scriptures.

The society consists at present of 110 members; meeting statedly on the first Wednesday of August, November, February, and May.

Aberdeen, 6th *February*, 1811.

The first donation of this Society was presented to the Edinburgh Bible Society, amounting to 20l. sterling: and 20l. 1s. has been lately given towards aiding the translations of sacred scripture now carrying forward by the Missionaries at Serampore, in the East Indies."

There is every reason to believe that this was the *first* association of adult females for promoting the object of the Bible Society; although its remittances have not been limited exclusively to that institution, but have occasionally aided the funds of various Missionary and School Societies. From the time of its establishment to March 1820, the aggregate amount derived from this comparatively humble source exceeded 220*l.*; and the number of subscribers at the latter period was about one hundred and fifty.

It is pleasing to reflect, that this benevolent disposition on the part of domestic servants is not confined to our own country. In the Wenden Association, connected with the Dorpatian Branch of the Russian Bible Society, "Female servants presented their gifts with joy."—Two sisters replied to the question, whether they meant their gifts as a donation or annual subscription; "That they wished for the honour of being enrolled among the members of the Bible Society; and were determined to offer a similar gift next year, though they should have to sacrifice their rest for several nights." One added, "Love to the Redeemer minds no trouble."* And a still more remarkable evidence of this generous feeling has transpired while the first sheets of this work were going through the press, in the following communication from a correspondent in Nurenberg, to the Committee of the Parent Society:—

"I had lately an affecting proof of the great interest excited even among the humbler classes of the community, by the cheering accounts of the extensive operations of your society. A maid-servant, who had for some time lived in the family of the Rev. Mr. Ranner, City Librarian in this place, and who had frequently heard of the excellent effects of the labours of the British and Foreign Bible Society, was so penetrated with admiration and esteem, that on her death-bed she left a legacy of 100 florins (about 10*l.*) to your society, naming me as the person through whom it should be transmitted. The legacy was announced to me in the town-hall, by order of the magistrates; and as soon as it shall be paid to me, I shall remit you a bill to that amount."

* Fourteenth Report of the British and Foreign Bible Society, p. 135.

A coincidence of no common kind will be traced in this event. It is the *first* legacy bequeathed by an European foreigner. She resided in that city wherein the *first* Continental Bible Society was formed; and she belonged to that humble but important class of the community, among the members of which the *first* female institution for promoting the circulation of the Scriptures was established.

3. The first Ladies' Bible Society, in direct and exclusive connexion with the Parent Institution, appears to have been that of *Westminster*, established in August 1811, under the following regulations:—

"I. That this society for raising subscriptions in aid of the *British and Foreign Bible Society*, be denominated 'The Westminster Ladies' Auxiliary Bible Society.'

II. That the Committee consist of forty-eight ladies, with a Treasurer and Secretaries, who shall be requested to raise subscriptions, and transact the business of the society.

III. That subscriptions of one penny or more per week, and all donations, be received by the Committee, and paid into the hands of the Secretaries, who will rest the same in the hands of the Treasurer.

IV. That any member of the Committee be allowed to propose a new member, till the number be completed. Notice of these elections shall be given to the Secretary, by the proposing member, with the name and place of abode of the person proposed, at least fourteen days before she be elected.

V. That this and all other questions be determined by a majority of votes.

VI. That the Committee meet in the vestry of the Adelphi Chapel, the second Monday in every month, at eleven o'clock in the morning.—Five of the members constituting a quorum.

VII. That an annual general meeting of the society be held the second Monday in March, to review the business of the preceding year, and for the election of officers and new members of the Committee, if necessary.—At such meeting, any subscriber of a penny per week may give a vote in any business then discussed.

VIII. That the moneys collected be remitted to the *British and Foreign Bible Society* annually."

This society commenced its operations by circulating a judicious and forcible Address to the Public, which tended in no inconsiderable degree to prepare the way for the subsequent establishment (in December 1812) of the Westminster Auxiliary Bible Society. But it will readily be perceived, that the regulations adopted were inadequate to the end designed. Of this the Committee soon became sensible; and in the winter of 1815, the author was invited to assist in the organization of the society, which appeared to be in a very declining state. He accordingly prepared a code of Rules and By-laws, which provided for the division of Westminster and its immediate vicinity into thirteen suitable districts, and the establishment of a Ladies' Association in each. This was

the first approach towards that system which will be more fully developed in the succeeding sections: and in order to illustrate its advantages, it is only necessary to state, that the total amount collected by the Westminster Ladies' Auxiliary Society, in the four preceding years, was about 150*l*., and the number of Bibles and Testaments distributed, 223; whereas the aggregate amount collected by the same institution and its connected associations, in the five following years, exceeded 2650*l*; and more than 2400 Bibles and Testaments were distributed.

In reference to this early and important institution, it would be improper to omit the following record of the sentiments, with which the Committee of the Westminster Auxiliary Society contemplated the organization, on more systematic principles, of the pre-existing establishment. In their Third Annual Report, they observe,—

"Your Committee unfeignedly rejoice in announcing to you an event which will shed, they are persuaded, a lustre over the proceedings of the past year, and form an era in the history of the society, to which memory shall never recur but with feelings of animated and lively gratitude. They refer to an union which has been effected between this society and a society instituted in the year 1811, under the denomination of 'The Westminster Ladies' Auxiliary Bible Society.' On the circumstances connected with this union, your Committee will not enlarge; but they congratulate you on the advantages which may be anticipated from the combined exertions of the two societies in the promotion of the one great cause, whose interests are interwoven with the best affections of your hearts. They who have often visited the poor man's dwelling, to wipe away the tear of human misery, and assuage the bitterness of temporal distress, are now become fellow-labourers with you in circulating that sacred volume, which not only affords the sweetest consolation amidst the calamities of life, but directs the weeping eye to a world where there is no more curse, neither sorrow nor pain, but where the poor in spirit and the pure in heart shall see God."

4. In the year 1811, a society was formed at PAISLEY, under the title of "The Paisley Female Bible Association," for the purpose of affording to the Ladies of that town "an opportunity of contributing to the promotion of the best interests of mankind, by encouraging the translation and distribution of the Bible." The regulations of this society exhibit a nearer approach to that system which has been subsequently adopted throughout the nation, than those which have been already considered. The business was conducted by "a Treasurer and Secretary, seven Directors, and thirty-two Collectors. The town being divided into sixteen wards, two collectors were appointed for each, who collected the subscriptions quarterly." This appears to have been the first association of adult females which contemplated the

Instituted on a different plan—Results.—Lochwinnock.—Johnstone.

supply of local wants as a primary object. Bibles sand Testaments were ordered and received from the Parent Institution, and several poor females were furnished with them on the recommendation of the members. The collectors were instructed to inquire into the wants of their districts, that they might be supplied; and prudential measures were devised to prevent mistake or imposition. At the close of the first year, the number of subscribers was about two hundred; and the amount collected, 45*l.* 13*s.* 3*d.*: but at the second annual meeting, the contributors had increased to above six hundred, and the year's income amounted to 160*l.* 10*s.*

At this meeting, it was resolved, that a connexion should be formed with the "Paisley and East Renfrewshire Bible Society," instituted in May 1813; from whose First Annual Report the following appropriate observation is extracted:—

"It is becoming in women as well as in men to aid so valuable a purpose. It is equally the duty of females to believe and obey the Gospel: and if Mary chose that better part which shall not be taken away, even the doctrine of Jesus as the one thing needful; if Lydia attended to the things spoken of by Paul; and if Priscilla assisted in teaching Apollos the way of GOD more perfectly; surely it is the duty of female Christians now to follow these examples; and not only to be religious in private, but in public also, encouraging by secret prayer and public exertion every pious undertaking."

The funds of this association, like those of its more humble but not less efficient precursor at Aberdeen, were apportioned to various, though kindred benevolent institutions, at the discretion of the Committee. This mode of proceeding is peculiar to Scotland: and it well deserves the serious consideration of the acute and enlightened philanthropists of that country, whether the streams of Christian charity be not limited rather than increased by its adoption,—whether the refreshing waters would not flow in richer abundance, if a separate fountain were unlocked for each particular object. In reference to the Paisley Association, it appears that the plan did not altogether succeed, as a Ladies' Bible Society on the improved system has superseded that establishment. *

5. In the year 1812, a society was established in DUBLIN,

* It would be unjust to pass over two other Female Associations, in connexion with the Paisley and East Renfrewshire Auxiliary Society;—that of LOCHWINNOCK, established in March, and that of JOHNSTONE in April, 1813. Both these institutions were formed on the model of that of Paisley, with some slight modifications, and appear to have contributed liberally to the funds of the Auxiliary Society, which acknowledges a remittance of 38*l.* 16*s.* 3*d.* by the former, and of 76*l.* by the latter, in the first year of their existence.

There is reason to believe that a similar association, on a more limited scale, was instituted in February 1814, at BALFRON, in connexion with the Glasgow Bible Society.

under the designation of "The Ladies' Auxiliary Bible Society, for the purpose of contributing to the Hibernian Bible Society." This institution was countenanced by personages of great distinction; and its regulations appear to have been similar to those originally adopted in Westminster, and already detailed. As it has gradually merged into the less prominent, but more efficient "*Associations*," subsequently formed in that city, it is only necessary to allude to it, as an additional motive for the formation of a "Ladies' Branch Society," which experience has satisfactorily proved to be expedient in extensive districts, where more than one association is found necessary. In reference to this society, and to similar institutions in the sister island, the Committee of the Hibernian Bible Society, in their Eighth Annual Report, observe:—

"One, instituted by the Ladies in *Limerick*, though formed only three months, has produced the sum of 42*l.*; and another, set on foot by the Ladies in *Sligo*, has in the same time raised 45*l.* From the first of these societies which was formed, that established by the Ladies of Dublin, your Committee have received, during the last year, the sum of 240*l.*"

In November 1812, an Association on a limited scale was formed at LYMINGTON, in Hampshire, principally by means of a pious and benevolent lady, whose unremitting exertions led to its organization on more regular and systematic principles at a subsequent period.

6. In tracing the progress of female interest and exertion in the cause, the next society which claims attention is that of COLCHESTER. It is not improbable that the example of Westminster first suggested the idea of a similar institution to the Committee of the Colchester and East-Essex Auxiliary Society; and the design appears to have been encouraged by the difficulties which those gentlemen found in their way, in the course of their endeavours to ascertain and supply the wants of the poor, and by their inability to devote the requisite time for collecting the contributions of the labouring classes. A Sub-Committee was accordingly appointed, "to prepare a plan for the formation of a Bible Association, particularly among the Ladies;" and the active and zealous individuals to whom this duty was assigned, immediately proceeded to select, from the Rules recommended by the Parent Institution for Bible Associations (*See Chap.* III. *Section* II.), such regulations as appeared suitable for an association of females. When the plan was sufficiently matured, it was submitted to a meeting of Ladies, convened at the Vicarage of St. Peter's by a circular invitation; and on the 1st of March, 1813, the society

was regularly established, under the patronage of the Countess of Chatham. A President, Treasurer, three Secretaries, and thirty-one Collectors, were appointed: and within little more than six months from its establishment, this association distributed 106 Bibles and Testaments, and collected above eighty pounds; of which sum, 47*l.* 4*s.* 8*d.* was appropriated to the general object of the Parent Institution. This success justifies the language in which the Auxiliary Society, in their Third Annual Report, announce its formation, as—

"an institution worthy of extensive imitation, and from which the most beneficial effects have already arisen; not only by imparting the holy scriptures to the poor in the town of Colchester, but also by contributing upwards of one-half of its funds to the general purposes of the Society; which were raised by the meritorious exertions of a Committee consisting of nearly forty Ladies, who collected from above 600 members their subscriptions of one penny a week and upwards. Your Committee notice with much pleasure the patronage by which this institution has recently been honoured: and as the supply of the poor in the town of Colchester is its first concern, your Committee cheerfully commit this part of their duty into its hands."

It must however be acknowledged, that the rules adopted by this association were deficient in some important particulars. It was resolved that the members of the Committee should be selected from among "such Ladies as shall procure and pay to the amount of twelve subscriptions (of one penny a week) and upwards:"—and by another regulation, it was provided, "that it be determined at the monthly meetings to whom the Bibles and Testaments shall be distributed, and that they be applied for one month previous to their being delivered." Hence it will readily be perceived, that the qualification of a member of the Committee, or Collector, might be, and in many cases was acquired by Ladies, without going out of their own families, or the circle of their immediate friends; and thus the primary object of all such institutions—that of meliorating the condition of the poor—was, in a great degree, defeated. Experience has abundantly proved, that it is only by assigning a local and defined district, of limited extent, to voluntary and approved collectors, and by that knowledge of its inhabitants which personal investigation alone can supply, that this important object can be accomplished, and *permanent* benefit conferred. And it is equally evident, that the latter regulation implies an extent of gratuitous distribution, unnecessary in reference to the labouring classes, and subversive of those powerful principles which should constitute the basis of every attempt to improve their state. A comparison of the rules in question, with those recommended in the following sections, will supersede

the necessity of any further remark on this part of the subject, especially as the Committee of the Colchester Ladies' Association have recently adopted, with considerable effect, the improved system.

7. The example of Colchester was speedily followed by the neighbouring towns of BOCKING and COGGLESHALL. In the former, a Ladies' Association was established in August; and in the latter, a similar institution was formed in November 1818. The early success of both was commensurate to that of their elder sister; and if their subsequent declension appear to have been more rapid and considerable, it must be ascribed to the defects of the constitution adopted, rather than a deficiency of interest and zeal in those who conducted their concerns. Nor is it an unreasonable hope, that the exemplary piety, diligence, and judgment, which distinguish the Officers and Committee of the Colchester and East-Essex Auxiliary Society, will prompt them to devise speedy and effectual measures for the revival of those associations, and the more general extension of the system; thus perpetuating that bright and early example, which has conferred such honour on their district, and contributed, in no slight degree, to its good order, tranquillity, and happiness.

8. In July 1813, a Ladies' Association was instituted at GUILDFORD, in the county of Surrey; of which it was one of the rules, "That a part of the funds of this association be transmitted to the Treasurer of the Surrey Auxiliary Society, half-yearly, in aid of the foreign department of the British and Foreign Bible Society." Within seven years, ending in May 1820, this society distributed 2160 Bibles and Testaments, and remitted 222*l.* for the general object of the Parent Institution. The example of Guildford was followed, in April 1814, by the neighbouring town of GODALMING, where a numerous and efficient committee was formed—the offices of treasurer and secretary being filled by gentlemen. In the month of December following, the author was invited to attend one of the general meetings of the latter, and, on investigation, found the system defective in many important points; but convinced, by the zeal and animation manifested by one of the secretaries, and the ladies of the Committee, that if it were improved on the model of that which had been attended with such unprecedented success in Southwark, the best effects might be anticipated, he turned his attention more decidedly to the subject. In attempting to revise the various and discordant regulations which had fallen under his notice, it

became evident, that a more clear and intelligible system was requisite, not only to preserve uniformity of design and operation, but to excite and maintain an interest in the cause. With these views, he prolonged his stay at Godalming; and having matured a code of Rules and By-laws, with forms of the Books and Papers necessary for the association, they were submitted to a special meeting of the Committee, and unanimously adopted. The results of those measures were speedily witnessed: in a district embracing a population of scarcely four thousand, the first year's aggregate collection amounted to 204*l.* 13*s.* 10*d.*; and within the same period, 502 Bibles and Testaments were *sold* to the poor at reduced prices; while a moral interest was excited throughout every class of the community, in favour of a cause, equally benevolent in its design and beneficial in its effects. Under a review of these gratifying circumstances, and desirous of extending a knowledge of the plan, the Committee of the Godalming Association felt themselves justified in recommending the following Resolution to the First Annual Meeting of the subscribers, by which it was unanimously adopted:—

"That this meeting, convinced of the benefits arising from the adoption of the SOUTHWARK Bible Association system, adapted to the local circumstances of the country, do request that such extracts may be made by the Committee, from the documents in their possession, as may tend to explain the plan, and encourage its general adoption; and that the same be printed and published, as an Appendix to the Report."

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9. The several societies and associations now enumerated, were the principal, if not the only Female institutions for promoting the circulation of the Scriptures, which existed in Great Britain and Ireland previous to the year 1814.

But before we trace the progress of the system from the period of its first application to Ladies' Societies at Godalming, it is necessary to take a slight review of the effects of a similar disposition on the part of the Female sex in AMERICA, to co-operate in this work of charity and peace. The first demonstration of this generous feeling is thus noticed in the Report of the New-York Bible Society for 1813:—

"During the past year, an association, composed of a number of pious and benevolent ladies, and called '*The Female Bible Society of Geneva*,' was formed in the town of Geneva, on the Seneca Lake. In the month of April last, they forwarded to this city fifty dollars, being the amount of their funds, to procure Bibles on the most advantageous terms. Your Board, desirous of aiding and encouraging the laudable efforts of that infant institution, resolved to furnish them with the Scriptures at first cost, to the amount of their funds, and to present them with fifty Bibles in addition. One hundred

and thirty Bibles were accordingly delivered to their agent, to be forwarded to them."

The feeling thus manifested rapidly extended. In the spring of 1814, a Female Bible Society was established in the city of PHILADELPHIA; and was announced to the Parent Institution in London by the following communication from the Secretary:—

"Inclosed you will receive a copy of the Constitution of the Female Bible Society of Philadelphia, together with an Address from Bishop White,* delivered at the second meeting of the members. By a Resolution of the Managers, I am directed to make a communication to the British and Foreign Bible Society of London, advising of the establishment of this institution.

"You will perceive, sir, that this society has been recently organized; but the encouragement and success it has already experienced, are strong indications of its future respectability and usefulness. As soon as the plan was proposed, Ladies of all Christian Denominations in this city came forward to promote it; and during the first week there were nearly five hundred subscribers. Since then, the number has been considerably augmented, and is now daily increasing. The counsel and assistance of the Clergy and distinguished members of the Philadelphia Bible Society have been liberally conferred; and the direction of Female efforts to this object, has received unqualified approbation and support from the most eminently pious among us."

In their Annual Report for 1814, the Board of Managers of the New-York Bible Society observe:—

"The Board notice with much pleasure the establishment, during the past year, of several Female Associations in this country, formed for the purpose of contributing, by their personal attention as well as by their pecuniary means, to disseminate the Word of GOD. In the last year's Report, mention was made of the formation of *The Female Bible Society of Geneva*, on the Seneca Lake. Since then, another of the same kind has been instituted in this state, at the village of Poughkeepsie; also, one at Philadelphia; one at Boston; one at Burlington, in the state of New Jersey; one at Carlisle, in Pennsylvania; one at Newville, twelve miles from Carlisle; and one at Manchester, in Virginia. It will doubtless be considered an important acquisition to the cause of Bible Societies, to have engaged in its active duties that sex, so distinguished for their benevolence and piety, and so peculiarly qualified for dispensing with advantage the offerings of this sublime charity among the children of sorrow and of want."

10. Even at this early period, a similar disposition was manifested on the Continent of Europe, in the establishment of two Female Bible Associations. The first institution of this nature appears to have been formed in 1814, and is thus announced in the primary report of the Saxon Bible Society:—"Several ladies have sent in their contributions; and we have lately received a gift of thirty rix-dollars, *from a Female Association* at FREYBERG *in Saxony*." The precise period at

* See this Address, Preliminary Observations, No. 6.

and in Bremen.—Rapid progress of the system in England.

which the second was established is not so easily ascertained; but it appears, from the interesting letters of Dr. Steinkopff in 1815, to have been attended with the most beneficial effects. Speaking of BREMEN, "a city distinguished by the religious spirit of many of its inhabitants, among the higher as well as the lower classes of society," he observes—"A most benevolent lady, *the President of the Ladies' Association* at Bremen, was an eye-witness of the good done by the Bibles and Testaments distributed among the Hamburg exiles." Brief as is this notice, what a volume of encouragement does it contain! Banished from his home and country, the Christian finds his consolation and support in the precepts and example, the sacrifice and atonement, of HIM who "*had not where to lay his head!*"

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11. The publication of the Southwark system for conducting Bible Associations *generally*, in the summer of 1814, and the circulation of two large editions, had prepared the public mind to appreciate those institutions, and consequently facilitated the application of the same principles in reference to Female exertion. The Godalming Association, as already observed, was *the first regularly-organized Ladies' Society:* and the system adopted by the Committee being detailed in the Appendix to their First Annual Report, published in the autumn of 1815, this institution speedily became a model for many others, not only in the county of Surrey, but in more distant parts of the kingdom. The towns of FARNHAM, MAIDENHEAD, KINGSTON, and HENLEY-ON-THAMES, were among the first to follow this example, and to experience the beneficial effects, both direct and collateral, of Female practical benevolence.

12. In following the chain of circumstances which have gradually led to the improvement and general adoption of the system, it is necessary to advert more particularly to the state of Southwark in the spring of 1815. The twelve associations, conducted exclusively by gentlemen, had then been in full operation nearly two years and a half; and the results had surpassed the most sanguine expectations of their warmest friends. Nearly 14,000 Bibles and Testaments had been distributed; more than ten thousand subscribers were contributing to their funds; and upwards of 4600*l.* had been remitted to the Auxiliary Society;—no symptom of decay was exhibited, and the highest degree of regularity and order characterized the whole body. Such being the flourishing

state of that district with which the author was more immediately connected, he did not feel himself justified in recommending the adoption of measures, which, however applicable to other places, appeared to him to be a hazardous experiment in reference to Southwark. At this period, his official duties, as Secretary of the *Guardian Society*, led to an investigation of the circumstances attending nearly two hundred wretched females, who had become the objects of that admirable institution; when it appeared, that more than one hundred and fifty of these unhappy victims of vice and misery had been *domestic servants*. In pursuing the inquiry suggested by this discovery, the melancholy fact was ascertained, that it is from the bosoms of our own families the deluge of iniquity, which covers the streets of the metropolis, is principally supplied: but the pain of this disclosure was in some degree mitigated by the reflection, that it is more easy to cut off the streams which feed this flood of profligacy, than to devise measures for restraining the overwhelming tide. The immediate consequence of the information thus acquired, was, an application to the Committees of the several associations in Southwark, to ascertain the number of female servants who were members, either as free contributors, or subscribers for Bibles and Testaments; and the preparation of a specific Address* to this numerous and important class of the community, which, being approved and adopted, was very extensively circulated in the winter of 1814. In the following summer the author renewed his inquiries in the twelve associations, and found, to his extreme disappointment, that the apparent effects produced by the circulation of the "Address" were inconsiderable:—in a district embracing a population of 150,000, of which, on a moderate estimate, 9000 are domestic servants, only *fifty-three* individuals of this description were reported as subscribers. Scarcely had this unexpected information been obtained, when, on accepting an invitation to the first general meeting of the Kingston-upon-Thames Ladies' Association, the author found a solution of his difficulties. That society had been only a few months established; the estimated population of the district was about 4000; and the number of domestic servants computed to be 500, of whom more than *one hundred and twenty* were subscribers:—the deduction from such premises was clear and indisputable: it was evident that Females constituted the proper and legitimate medium of application to the members of

* See Appendix, No. X.

their own sex; and that in order to excite that general interest which was the immediate object of this inquiry, the formation of Ladies' Associations in Southwark was indispensable. A proposition to this effect having met the unanimous approbation of the Committee, measures were devised for carrying it into effect; and, before the close of the year, six associations were established, in connexion with those previously existing in the respective parishes; and means were adopted for the formation of similar institutions in the remaining districts. One of the immediate results of these proceedings, satisfactorily demonstrated the correctness of the view already taken, by exhibiting more than *one hundred and fifty* female servants as subscribers to *one* of these associations within six weeks after its establishment.

13. Those considerations which arise out of our daily habits, and are connected with our immediate interests, are frequently the last to force themselves on our attention;—that which *may* be always done, seems to carry our apology for leaving it undone; and "a more convenient season" will ever be anticipated, for the discharge of an obligation which we feel no inclination to meet. Except on these grounds, it is impossible to account for that apathy and supineness with which almost every measure suggested for the improvement of female servants has been received, while the complaints of their misconduct are proverbially incessant. Under this view of the subject, it becomes an important object of inquiry, whether we are not ourselves accessary to those faults which we so loudly condemn; and whether we may not at least diminish an acknowledged and extensive evil, if we cannot altogether prevent its existence. As professing Christians, we acknowledge one fixed and unalterable standard of morals and of duty, for every rank and denomination,—"*Knowing that whatsoever good things any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the* LORD, *whether he be bond or free:*" but if we neglect to impress on the minds of our domestics a due sense of the authority and purity of this standard, an habitual reverence of its injunctions, and a settled conviction of their responsibility to HIM who framed it, we shall assuredly be disappointed in our expectations of that faithful obedience to an earthly master, which is withheld from the KING of KINGS and LORD of LORDS. In the discharge of this duty, our own temporal interests and comfort are deeply involved: we do not hesitate to entrust our lives and property, the health, safety, and morals of our children, to our domestic servants; but we are too often indifferent to the momentous inquiry

whether the character we have received with them, and that which they acquire in our service, be established on the only foundation which insures its stability, and justifies our confidence. There is yet another point of view in which it may not be unprofitable to consider this important subject. To those who have perused some recent and valuable works on criminal jurisprudence, and especially to those benevolent individuals who have been made the honoured instruments of changing the moral aspect of our principal prisons, it will be a familiar observation, that a *love of dress* is one of the first temptations which assails the female sex; and that, in numerous instances, the gratification of this vanity has been the primary step in a career of guilt and misery. There are but few female servants, in respectable families, whose wages are not more than adequate to their necessary expenses, and to that moderate provision for the future which should always be encouraged and assisted; but it is a notorious fact, that the surplus is too generally appropriated to the indulgence of this prevalent passion; and the consequences are lamentably evident to every reflecting mind.

From these considerations, and many others which will readily suggest themselves on a calm review of the subject, it is obviously our duty and our interest to countenance and support such measures as have a tendency to elevate the moral character of female servants, while they promote those habits of conscientious fidelity, industry, and sobriety, by which domestic peace and good order are secured and maintained. Nor is it possible to conceive a more effectual and less objectionable mode of accomplishing this object, than that of exciting among them an interest in the great design of the Bible Society,—first, by supplying themselves, and then by contributing their limited aid to supply the whole human race.

These observations cannot be more appropriately concluded, than by the following extract from the Annual Report of the St. Saviour's and St. Thomas's Assoiciation, Southwark:—

"Within the district were three poor orphan children, without a father, without support, and without a Bible. Their situation attracted the attention of a female servant. She could not supply their other necessities—she could not give them food and raiment for their bodies; but she gave what she could give—the Word of GOD! She subscribed for them to the Association, and presented each child with a Bible! As long as the Bible Association of St. Saviour's and St. Thomas's exists, *shall this that she hath done be told for a memorial of her!*"

14. Returning from this digression, which will find an

apology in the importance of its subject—the next Female Association to be noticed is that of READING.

It will be recollected, that it was in this town the first regular Auxiliary Society was established; and seven years having elapsed since that memorable event, it might have been rationally presumed that the primary object of local supply had been fully accomplished. Some casual inquiry, however, induced a doubt as to the correctness of this conclusion: and an appeal having been made to the Ladies, it was promptly recognised; and the Association was instituted on the 4th of April 1816, with a degree of unanimity and zeal rarely equalled and never surpassed. The town, containing a population of about 12,000, was divided into 54 districts, which were regularly and systematically visited every week, by one hundred and nine ladies; the results of whose exertions during the first four weeks, as reported at the Committee-meeting held on the 14th of May, exhibited a list of 1790 contributors, of whom 863 were subscribers for Bibles and Testaments, and an aggregate collection of 103*l.* 16*s.* At the termination of the first year, 1056 copies of the holy scriptures had been distributed by sale; and 643*l.* 12*s.* 3*d.* had been paid into the hands of the Treasurer, of which 70*l.* was unanimously voted, as a primary remittance for the general object of the Parent Institution.

15. The unprecedented success of the Reading Ladies' Association, and of several similar establishments formed about the same period in the neighbouring villages, in connexion with the Henley Auxiliary Society, induced the Committee of the latter institution to include in the Appendix to their Annual Report for 1816, a detailed statement of the Southwark system, as applicable to Female Associations. This publication being extensively circulated, produced a considerable effect. At ABINGDON, SOUTHAMPTON, BRISTOL, BRIGHTON, LEWES, WEYMOUTH, POOLE, BRIDPORT, SHERBORNE, and many places of minor importance, Ladies' Associations were speedily organized; and it was evident that a disposition in their favour was rapidly spreading throughout the kingdom. In the course of these operations, the author had found occasion to revise the Rules and By-laws originally framed at Godalming; experience and more close observation having suggested various improvements in the plan, calculated to facilitate and simplify the proceedings. In October 1817, the entire code of Regulations was submitted to the Committee of the Parent Society; and after a full and minute examination into the tendency of each particular part, and such few

alterations as appeared necessary to render the design more clear and explicit, it received the unanimous approval of the General Committee on the 17th of November; and a Resolution was adopted, that copies should be immediately printed and circulated in the name and under the sanction of the British and Foreign Bible Society. This decision was officially announced by the following communication, prefixed to the "Monthly Extracts of Correspondence, No. 4."

"Society's House, Earl Street, Blackfriars, Nov. 17, 1817.

"The Committee of the British and Foreign Bible Society avail themselves of their monthly communication, to make known the result of their recent inquiries and proceedings, in reference to certain points materially connected with the interests of the institution.

"The first subject of their investigation was, the most proper mode of turning to advantageous account the zeal so generally and laudably manifested by the Female sex in favour of the society's object, both in its Domestic and Foreign Department. The course which that zeal had spontaneously taken in the establishment of 'Ladies' Bible Associations,' left nothing for the Committee to do, but to recommend the best means which their experience could furnish, for giving to Female agency, in this way of employing it, a prudent and useful direction. With this view, the Committee examined the Regulations in most general use: and they now present them in a revised form,* in the hope that they may be found serviceable in modelling that class of Associations, which, if regularly constituted, and discreetly conducted, is likely to become an instrument of extensive and permanent good."

The consequence of these judicious and well-timed proceedings, and of this explicit approval on the part of those to whom the superintendence of the system is so beneficially entrusted, were speedily manifested. Before the close of that year, no fewer than *twenty-eight* Female Associations were established and organized in the counties of Buckingham, Oxford, Northampton, and Lancaster; and the following year was characterized by the formation of more than *seventy* similar institutions.

16. Such were the origin and progress of that system, which will be developed in Section III.: but it is first necessary to consider the nature and constitution of Ladies' BRANCH Societies, to which some slight allusion has been already made. These institutions are of a more recent origin, and were not contemplated when the plan of Female Associations was first devised; but they claim priority of place, on the grounds of their importance, and on those of clear and lucid arrangement. They will therefore form the subject of the next section.

* See Section III. of this Chapter.

It would indeed be unjust, in a section which professes to trace the history of Female exertion in the best of causes, to omit a distinct allusion to a Lady, whose ardent zeal and perseverance justify the application of the inspired language—"*Many daughters have done virtuously; but thou excellest them all.*" Those readers who are familiar with the Annual Reports of the Parent Society, will recognise, in this allusion, "a correspondent at a principal naval station," who has, during the last eleven years, been the honoured instrument of distributing more than *twenty-nine thousand* copies of the holy scriptures, in ten different languages, among a description of persons to which few could find access, except those who are animated, like her, with a fervent desire to promote the glory of GOD in the salvation of her fellow-creatures.

SECTION II.

ON LADIES' BRANCH SOCIETIES.

1. In unfolding the practical constitution of the auxiliary system, we are perpetually reminded of the insufficiency of every human invention, for the accomplishment of even the best and purest ends. The works of the Divine Architect alone bear the stamp of wisdom and perfection; and the highest attainment of sublunary intelligence can only be a progressive approach towards that excellence which it can never reach. It has been already observed, that every successive improvement of this system has been the result of accidental circumstances; and the division of it which now claims our attention, exhibits a striking illustration of this remark.

On the 25th of March, 1817, a society was established in LIVERPOOL, under the designation of the "*Liverpool Ladies' Auxiliary Bible Society;*" conducted by a treasurer, two secretaries, and a committee of twenty-four other ladies; and under the patronage of the Countess of Derby, Lady Stanley, and other elevated characters in the neighbourhood. A judicious Address was adopted and circulated, wherein the "great deficiency of Bibles still existing among the poorer classes in the town and vicinity," and the importance of "the general objects of the Parent Institution," were strongly urged, as the grounds of appeal to the public sympathy and benevolence. About *sixty* ladies, having subsequently offered their services as collectors, were appointed to extensive districts, under the direction of the respective members of the Committee, to

whom they presented their reports monthly, and paid over the amount collected.

In announcing this institution, the Committee of the Liverpool Auxiliary Society, in their Sixth Annual Report, observe:—

"Your Committee had lamented equally with all their predecessors, the great inefficiency of Gentlemen, in a plan professing to embrace the distribution of the Bible, through every part of a numerous, poor, and ever-varying population. That defect will be supplied—that difficulty will be removed. A society of Ladies will be organized, under the direction of their own Committee, which, by dividing the town into districts, and examining minutely into the wants of the poor, may be able to supply them, under circumstances of more hope and encouragement than can be expected from any other plan. The benevolence of the female character leads Ladies continually into those scenes of sorrow and suffering, where the mind is (humanly speaking) more pervious to the lessons of the Gospel. Your Committee anticipate a period, not very far distant, when the Ladies' Society may abundantly supply *their* lack of service, and promote in the hearts of the poor, generally through the town, the interests of that spiritual kingdom, which is righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. Their influence will be materially useful in the collection of small subscriptions: and if these District Associations be put into full activity, the difficulties hitherto experienced will, probably, be materially diminished, the support of the poor more extensively obtained, and the poor themselves brought into more intimate acquaintance with their duty to the commands, and their interest in the blessings of the Gospel."

That those prospects have been abundantly realized, will be shewn in the sequel: but the experience of a few months was sufficient to convince the Ladies thus engaged, that the plan they had adopted was totally inadequate to the end designed. No provision was made for exciting and perpetuating that feeling, which gives to every individual engaged in the work, an interest in its success;—the local districts were too extensive, and many parts of them were, consequently, unvisited;—the mode of gratuitous supply was carried to a mischievous excess;—but, above all, no measures were devised for awakening, in the labouring classes of the community, the benevolent principle, and calling into life and exercise, even within the walls of a cottage, those Christian charities, the developement of which are among the first and happiest results of Bible Associations. In reference to these, and other defects in their system, the Committee of Ladies observe, in their First Annual Report:—

"The further the collectors advanced in the work, the more they were convinced of its urgent necessity, and of their inability to perform it. The funds of the Society being inadequate to the demands for Bibles and Testaments, even at reduced prices, your Committee were obliged to refuse several applications for grants to persons in indigent circumstances; but a seasonable donation of Bibles and Testaments, to the amount of 5*l.*, intended for the

The Liverpool Ladies' Branch Society established.

temporary supply of such persons as were unable to purchase, prevented the inconvenience which this circumstance would otherwise have occasioned. New difficulties were, however, continually arising, which called for new and untried expedients; and the benevolent designs of the institution were frequently impeded, by that want of system which your Committee felt themselves incompetent to supply."

Such was the state of this society in December 1817, when the author accepted an invitation to assist in organizing it on more correct principles. On investigation, it appeared that, during the preceding nine months, about 500 persons had entered their names as subscribers for Bibles and Testaments, and about 200 as free contributors; that 271 copies of the Scriptures had been distributed by sale, and 35 gratuitously; and that the total amount collected was 412*l.* 18*s.* 3*d.*

In a district, the population of which exceeded one hundred thousand, it was evident that *one* Bible Association would be insufficient: and as no plan had hitherto existed for connecting several institutions of this description, conducted by Females, with the same Auxiliary Society, it became necessary to devise a mode by which their operations should be carried on with uniformity and effect. The precedents exhibited in Southwark, Westminster, the City of London, and Bristol, were totally inapplicable to Liverpool; as in these, and many other populous places, Gentlemen's Associations pre-occupied the ground.—After mature deliberation, it was resolved to divide the town and its immediate vicinity into ten districts, and to establish and organize a Female Association in each; of which the Presidents, Vice-Presidents, Treasurers, and Secretaries, unitedly, should constitute a distinct Society or Committee, under the designation of "The Ladies' Branch of the Liverpool Auxiliary Society." From this plan, it was presumed, many beneficial effects would result:—the several Associations, under the superintending care and direction of judicious individuals of their own sex, would preserve an uniformity of design and proceeding;—a regular and proper medium of communication with the Auxiliary Society would be provided, calculated to prevent trouble to all parties, and to facilitate the separate and combined operations;—the remittances would be received, and the Bibles and Testaments issued, with order, economy, and despatch;—any improvements in the system would be deliberately considered, and effectually recommended;—and one Annual Report would exhibit the collective results of the whole institution.

A Code of Rules and By-Laws, founded on these princi-

ples, having been prepared, it was submitted to the Ladies' Committee, and being unanimously adopted, the society was re-formed on the 26th of December 1817; and the ten connected Associations were established within the following week. If a doubt had hitherto existed relative to the comparative efficiency of the plan thus adopted, the immediate effects would have removed it. The zeal, the talents, and the influence of more than *six hundred Ladies* were called into exercise, and directed, in a methodical and systematic manner, to the investigation and supply of *three hundred and forty-one* districts. At the close of the first year, the number of subscribers exceeded *ten thousand*, of whom 3364 were free contributors; more than *three thousand* Bibles and Testaments had been distributed by sale; and the aggregate amount collected was 2552*l.* 16*s.* 10*d.*, of which the sum of 518*l.* 1*s.* 4*d.* was remitted for the general object of the Parent Institution. During this period, "more than 20,800 visits had been paid, and been attended, by the blessing of GOD, with the happiest results, not only to the families of the poor, but amongst the collectors themselves." In surveying these unexampled effects, well might the Committee observe,—

"Though the operations of your society, like the mechanism of a watch, have been concealed from view, their influence has extended through the circle of the Associations, and their beneficial effects have been pointed out by the Branch Committee, as the hours by the fingers on the dial: the eye of the most indifferent will be struck with the pleasing results; while the more attentive observer will perceive the adaptation of the various parts to the perfection of the whole, and, thereby discerning the 'signs of the times,' will give the praise to that divine Artificer, whose providence directs and regulates all our movements."

The establishment of the Ladies' Branch of the Liverpool Auxiliary Society was immediately followed by that of a similar institution at MANCHESTER: and the plan was adopted at a later period by the Ladies of PLYMOUTH, HULL, and NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE. The complete success with which it has been attended, not only in its pecuniary and moral results, but in its tendency to preserve inviolate the principles and regulations recommended by the Parent Society, justifies the expectation, that the Ladies' Associations in the several auxiliary districts of the metropolis will speedily form establishments of a like nature; and that the principal towns and cities of the empire, in which more than one Female Association is found expedient, will follow the example. In the formation of the societies just enumerated, and especially that for Plymouth and its vicinity, many improve-

ments in the original design suggested themselves; and it is now submitted in its matured state, with such observations as appear necessary to render the various regulations more clear and intelligible.

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2. RULES and REGULATIONS *recommended for adoption by the* LADIES' BRANCH *of an Auxiliary Bible Society.*

I. That we form ourselves into a society in connexion with the British and Foreign Bible Society, through the medium of the ——— Auxiliary Society, for the purpose of contributing towards the circulation of the holy scriptures without note or comment, particularly in ———, and its vicinity; and that this society be denominated "The Ladies' Branch of the ——— Auxiliary Bible Society."

II. That the business of this society be conducted by a Committee, composed of the honorary members, the Treasurers, and Secretaries of all the Ladies' Bible Associations now formed, or which may hereafter be formed, in connexion with the ——— Auxiliary Bible Society, and of all the Patronesses and Vice-Patronesses who may join the institution.

III. That the objects of this Committee shall be,

1. To preserve one uniform mode of proceeding throughout all the Associations represented in this Branch Committee.
2. To provide a regular medium of communication, by means of this Committee, with the Committee of the Auxiliary Society, and thereby facilitate the operations of each Association.
3. To constitute a medium, through which the several Associations may receive their Bibles and Testaments from, and remit their contributions to, the Auxiliary Society, and recommend to the Committee of that institution any deserving objects of gratuitous supply.
4. To condense the several Reports of the respective Associations, and prepare and publish one Annual Report of the whole proceedings of the united Associations.
5. To solicit and obtain patronage.

IV. That the Committee meet once a month or oftener, on some day to be fixed by themselves.

V. That a President, Treasurer, and three (or more) Secretaries, eligible to re-election, shall be annually chosen at the Committee Meeting in ———.

VI. That, in consideration of the offer of the Auxiliary Bible Society to allow to this Branch the privileges which they are allowed by the Parent Society, the whole of the funds be paid, after supplying local wants and deducting incidental expenses, to the Treasurer of the Auxiliary Society, to be by him remitted to the Parent Institution, as the contribution of the Ladies' Branch of the Bible Society for ——— and its vicinity, and stated as such in their Annual Report.

VII. That this Committee prepare an Annual Report of its proceedings, which shall be transmitted to the Secretaries of the Auxiliary Society, on or before the —— of ——— in each year, and which shall be read and published as the Report of the Ladies' Branch of the Auxiliary Bible Society. And that every collector, and every contributor of half-a-guinea or upwards per annum, be entitled to a copy.

VIII. That this Branch, and all the Associations in the town (or city) and its immediate vicinity connected therewith, hold their anniversary meetings conjointly with those of the Auxiliary Society. But that the Associations established at a distance, although in connexion with this Society, shall be

at liberty to hold their respective annual meetings, if the Local Committees deem it expedient.

VIII. That a copy of these Rules, signed by the Secretaries, be transmitted to the Committee of the British and Foreign Bible Society, and to the Committee of the Auxiliary Society.

3. OBSERVATIONS.

Although the remarks already made, in reference to the Rules of an Auxiliary Society (*see Chapter* II. *Section* II.), are equally applicable, in their general tendency, to the institution now under review, there are some peculiar features in the preceding Regulations which require more particular consideration:—

I. As the Ladies' Branch of an Auxiliary Society is composed, exclusively, of the honorary and other officers of Female Associations within the district, it is evident that such an institution cannot be formed until some progress is made towards the establishment of the latter. At Liverpool, the case was different; as the materials for a Branch Committee previously existed: but at Manchester, Plymouth, &c. the Associations were formed in the first instance, and the institution in question immediately followed. It will, however, be found highly desirable, to prepare the frame-work of the society as early as possible; and this may be easily done when only one or two of the projected Associations are established: the ulterior proceedings will thus be materially facilitated, and a due degree of regularity, order, and cohesion be secured and maintained. The several united Associations should not only consider themselves as parts of a whole, but as dependent on the Branch Society, which is constituted for the general benefit of all; and it is obvious, that the sooner those principles are practically applied, the greater will be that mutual harmony and good understanding which should always characterize the system.

II. In the formation of a new Association, it should be the duty of the Branch Secretaries to afford every requisite assistance to the Committee of the Auxiliary Society: but it is in the organization of the Committee that the services and experience of those Ladies will be found most valuable and efficient. The Account Books, Papers, copies of the Branch Rules, and all other necessary documents, should be immediately supplied; and the Secretaries be fully instructed in the duties they are expected to discharge, not only in regard to their own distinct Association, but as connected with the Branch Society. The importance of full and regular Reports, and of a strict adherence to the Rules adopted, should be especially enforced.

III. It will be perceived, that it is recommended to confine the power of making gratuitous grants, exclusively, to the Committee of the Auxiliary Society. By this regulation, much trouble is avoided, while every prudent facility is afforded to the supply of

the very few cases which, in a well-organized society, demand attention. These cases will be still more rare, if the plan of the Loan-fund—which will be considered in its proper place—be adopted in an early stage of the proceedings of a Bible Association.

IV. The observations already submitted, relative to the selection of suitable persons as Secretaries of an Auxiliary Society (*see Chap.* II. *Section* III.), being equally applicable in reference to a Ladies' Branch, supersede the necessity of further remark in this place. Nothing is more detrimental to the interests of a Bible Society than the frequent change of Secretaries, which should never be made without sufficient cause.

V. It should be distinctly understood, that, with the exception of such donations and subscriptions as may be derived from the honorary officers, a Ladies' Branch Society possesses no funds but those of the connected Associations. The extent of remittances for the general object of the Parent Institution will, consequently, depend on the amount voted for this express purpose by the respective Committees of these Associations; and, from the aggregate amount, the incidental expenses of the Branch Society should be deducted, and the surplus balance be annually remitted to the Auxiliary Society, as provided by the 5th Rule.

VI. To those who are familiar with the Annual Reports of the Liverpool, Manchester, and Plymouth Ladies' Societies, the 6th Rule will carry its own recommendation. Few documents have issued from the press, better calculated to arrest the attention and excite an interest in behalf of the cause whose merits they attest. This publication should appear as soon as possible after the Annual Meeting; and should contain a brief, but lucid compendium of the proceedings and comparative state of the several Associations; with a judicious selection of such passages from their Reports, as may exhibit a faithful exposition of the beneficial effects produced. A copy of the Treasurer's account, as audited, should be appended, with an alphabetical list of all free contributors to the respective Associations of half-a-guinea per annum and upwards. The requisite number of copies for the supply of those subscribers should be sent, as soon as possible, to the Secretaries of each Association; and, if the Report be not published jointly with that of the Auxiliary Society, twelve copies should be transmitted to the Committee of the Parent Institution.

One of the first duties of the Committee will be, the consideration and adoption of a Code of By-Laws, which will form the subject of the next division.

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4. BY-LAWS,

Recommended for adoption by the Committee of a Ladies' Branch Society.

I. That the Committee shall meet at the ———, on the ——— in every month, at —— o'clock precisely.

By-Laws recommended for adoption.

II. As soon after — o'clock as five members shall be present, the chair shall be taken, and the business commenced.

III. The names of the members shall be called over at — o'clock; and no one who comes at a later hour shall be entered upon the Minutes as present, though entitled to vote.

IV. That the chair shall be taken by the President: in her absence, by the Treasurer: and in the absence of these officers, the Committee shall appoint a Lady to the chair from among themselves.

V. The order of proceeding at each monthly meeting shall be,

1. To read the Minutes of the preceding meeting; and to dispose of business arising therefrom.
2. To call on the *Treasurer* of each Association, in order, for a written Report, and any money voted by the Association.
3. To call for a written report from each *District Committee*, in the order of establishment of the Associations they represent.
4. To consider the Treasurer's and District Committee's reports, and dispose of any business arising from them.
5. To receive the *Cash Secretary*'s monthly statement of the funds of the society.
6. To receive the *Bible Secretary*'s report of Bibles and Testaments received and delivered, and the stock on hand; with any official communications the Secretaries may have to make.
7. To receive the *Cash Secretary*'s report of Remittances from the Associations, and vote the amount to the Treasurer.
8. To receive the *Branch Treasurer*'s report of the state of the funds, and vote such sum as may be deemed expedient to the Auxiliary Society;—an acknowledgment to be received of all such payments, and produced at the next meeting of the Committee. After which, fresh propositions shall be taken into consideration.

VI. All orders upon the Treasurer shall be, by regular vote of the Committee, extracted from the Minutes, and signed by one of the Secretaries.

VII. A Depository of Bibles and Testaments shall be established, from which no books shall be delivered without an order signed by one of the Secretaries.

VIII. No order for Bibles and Testaments shall be recognised, until the amount, at cost prices, shall have been remitted.

IX. Two Auditors shall be annually chosen, to whom all bills shall be referred for examination. They shall also investigate the accounts of the society, and present a statement of the same, signed by them, to the Committee Meeting, immediately preceding the Annual Meeting in each year.

X. The Secretaries shall call a special meeting of the Committee, on receiving a requisition signed by five members; or they may do so on their own authority alone: such meeting not to take place until three days after the date of the summons, which shall specify the object of the meeting.

XI. The President, Treasurer, and Secretaries of each Association now formed, or which shall hereafter be formed, in connexion with the ——— Auxiliary Society, shall be a District Committee of this Society for such Association.

XII. The *Treasurer* of each Association shall present, monthly, a written report, detailing the precise state of the funds of such Association.

XIII. Each *District Committee* shall present, monthly, a written report, detailing the precise state of such Association, exclusive of its financial concerns.

XIV. The Secretaries are authorised to procure the requisite Account Books, Papers, &c. for the use of this society and of the several Associations; and shall keep an account of all Books and Papers furnished to the latter.

Observations on the By-Laws.

XV. The Secretaries shall be, *ex officio*, members of the Committees of all the Associations connected with this society.

XVI. No new By-Law shall be made, nor any existing By-Law repealed or altered, without one month's previous notice being given, and a copy of the proposed addition or alteration sent to every member of the Committee.

5. OBSERVATIONS.

The similarity of these By-Laws, in many essential points, to those recommended for adoption by the Committees of Auxiliary Societies, justifies a reference to the Observations on the latter (*See Chap.* II. *Section* III.), for such general explanations as appear necessary. A considerable degree of repetition is inseparable from a work of this nature; and where it can be avoided with a due regard to explicitness, the candid reader of any separate chapter will forgive the additional trouble to which he is subjected. Those *peculiar* features which distinguish the practical regulations of a Ladies' Branch Society will now be considered.

I. It is highly desirable, for reasons which are sufficiently obvious, that the Committee-meetings of all Female societies should be held in the early part of the day: eleven or twelve o'clock is generally found to be the most suitable time: and if punctuality of attendance, and strict adherence to the prescribed regulations, be observed, two hours will be found amply sufficient for the transaction of the business. Every member should be furnished, annually, with a Committee-Card (*See Specimen No.* 10, *Seventh Division of this Section*); and any further intimation of the regular monthly meetings will be unnecessary. It is the duty of the Minute Secretary to prepare an Agenda, or Paper of Business (*See Specimen, Chap.* I. *Section* II.) which is laid, with a copy of the By-Laws, before the Lady who presides.

II. The various Reports alluded to in the Fifth By-Law will be described in a subsequent division of this Section:—their regular presentation at every Committee-meeting is essential to the preservation of order; and in case of any omission, measures should be immediately adopted to prevent its recurrence. The design of this By-Law is two-fold;—first, to obtain a full and faithful representation of the circumstances of every Association; and secondly, to ascertain the precise state of the whole connected institution. These reports, therefore, should receive the most deliberate consideration, and the respective District Committees be prepared to afford any requisite explanation. The causes which have produced any extraordinary change, whether favourable or unfavourable, should be diligently investigated—if any Association appear in a declining state, the most prompt and judicious measures for its revival should be adopted, by the appointment of a suitable Sub-Committee for this especial purpose:—where a more than usual degree of success, either pecuniary or moral, has been experienced,

the means of its attainment should be ascertained and considered, in reference to their more general application;—and, if the slightest deviation from the principles and rules of the Society be manifested, the most decided measures should be taken to correct the evil and prevent its repetition. The Committee, in all their proceedings, should consider themselves the guardians of the interests, the peace, and the character of the united Associations: and, remembering, that "*whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it;*" press forward in that "*more excellent way,*" by which an evidence is afforded that they are members of "*the body of Christ.*"

III. The Depository should be established in a central and convenient place; and if in or near the house where the Committee-meetings are held, it will be the more desirable. The gentlemen of the Liverpool Bible Society have supplied their Ladies' Branch with eligible premises, for both purposes; and at Plymouth, a suitable room has been procured, at the annual rent of six pounds, which is fitted up as a Depository, and in which the Committee also meet. A sufficient, though not an extravagant stock of Bibles and Testaments, to answer the demands of the Associations, should be constantly kept on hand, and properly arranged; and the Books should be frequently examined, not only to ascertain the correctness of the Stock-list, but to insure their preservation. Another department of the Depository should include an adequate supply of Account-Books, Visiting and Collecting-Books, printed Papers, Forms of the various Reports, &c. for the use of the society and its connected Associations. The Reports of the Parent Institution, and of Auxiliary and other societies, with a connected series of the "Monthly Extracts," constitute a valuable addition to the Depository. It will save considerable trouble to all parties, if the Bible Secretary of the respective Associations deliver their order for any Bibles and Testaments required, at the close of the regular Committee-meetings; but as many unforeseen circumstances will require attention, the Branch Secretaries should appoint one day, weekly, when they may be met with at the Depository at stated hours.

IV. Although recent personal investigation has established the melancholy fact, that many extensive districts in our own highly-favoured country are, in a lamentable degree, destitute of the holy scriptures; yet experience has proved, that it is not by *gratuitous* supply this deficiency can be best remedied. A mass of irresistible evidence has already testified, not only to the ability but the inclination of the labouring classes to aid themselves, and to the superior value attached to that blessing which has been thus obtained, when the mode of procuring it has been opened to them. No instance has, hitherto, occurred, wherein a Female Association in connexion with a Ladies' Branch has required a supply of Bibles and Testaments beyond the amount of money remitted; on the contrary, a

laudable desire is manifested to contribute in aid of the general design of the Parent Society; and this disposition, it is confidently hoped, will become still more universal. But it should not be concealed, that a degree of lukewarmness has been witnessed, in some quarters, in reference to the Foreign operations of the Bible Society. It has been asked, "Why cannot foreign nations supply themselves; and why should we be required to assist them?" To this inquiry, the *Christian* will find the best answer in his Bible, and in his own heart: and those who are acquainted with the state of other countries, and especially of Heathen lands, will find in the simple words, "*they cannot help themselves*," a sufficient, because a true reply. But this subject has been so fully treated in the preceding parts of this work (*see Chap.* I. *Sections* X. & XI.), that it is not necessary to enlarge on it in this place. Shall it be said in the nineteenth century, and in a land which owes to foreigners this sacred foundation of its dearest rights and its highest privileges, that they shall now look to her in vain?—Shall the seas which bound her shores circumscribe the range of her benevolence; instead of fulfilling the gracious designs of her God and Saviour, by bearing to all kindreds, tongues, and people, the evidence of her gratitude, and the charter of our common salvation?—"*Silver and gold* THEY *have none*;" but never will England refuse to say unto them, "*In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!*"

v. In a Ladies' Branch Society, as in all kindred institutions, the necessity for special Committee-meetings will seldom occur, if the Secretaries be executive in the discharge of their duties. A moderate exercise of fore-thought will generally enable them to bring forward every subject requiring consideration, at the regular monthly meetings; at which nothing is more likely to insure the punctual attendance of the members, than the avoidance of extraordinary claims on their time.

vi. The privilege conferred on the Secretaries by the XVth By-Law, will be found highly conducive to the interests of the several Associations; and it is very desirable that those officers should avail themselves of it, as far as may be consistent with their more immediate duties. The correct knowledge thus acquired of the system, in all its practical relations, will enable them to conduct the general business with ease and efficacy. If other Ladies properly qualified can be found to occupy this important station, it is recommended that they shall not be selected from among the officers of the united Associations; for although it may reasonably be expected that no undue partiality would be manifested, in the event of such selection, the mere suspicion of its existence would weaken the hands of the Secretaries, and contract their field of usefulness.

When the Rules and By-Laws have been maturely considered and adopted, a certain number of copies should be

printed, and two or three sent to each of the members. The names of the Patronesses, Officers, and Committee may be advantageously prefixed; and in some societies the following observations have been appended:—

"The RULES and REGULATIONS of the SOCIETY, with the BY-LAWS of the COMMITTEE, are forwarded to the Members, in the earnest hope that they sufficiently explain the nature of those interesting duties which are required from them. The purity of the design can only be maintained by the watchful care of those who are privileged to take an active part in the practical details of the Bible Society; and it is, therefore, incumbent on them to adhere, with scrupulous attention, to the simple nature of the institution, and in the spirit of meekness and comprehensive charity to pursue the object.

6. The circulation, by means of the Collectors, of an Address to the Mistresses of Families, on the formation of a Ladies' Branch Society, has been attended with considerable advantage, in every point of view.

The specimen subjoined will sufficiently explain the nature and design of such a document, which should be prepared at the primary meeting of the Committee:—

"MADAM,—We have the pleasure to inform you, that a Society has been recently established, denominated "The Ladies' Branch of the Plymouth, Plymouth-Dock, and Stonehouse Auxiliary Bible Society," which, by a division of the towns and neighbourhood into districts, and the formation of an Association of Ladies in each, proposes to unite the exertions of all Females, whose benevolence may dispose them, to supply every individual who is destitute of the holy scriptures, with *copies of the Authorised Version without note or comment*, by collecting their subscription of one penny or upwards per week, according to their circumstances. Two Ladies will regularly call for these subscriptions.

"It is hoped that many important advantages will result from this plan of regularly visiting the labouring classes of society: their real condition will be thus correctly ascertained, and opportunity afforded of recommending habits of order, cleanliness, and frugality. But it is to its advantages, with respect to domestic servants, that your attention is more particularly solicited: much of our comfort depends upon this class of society; and surely it is of importance to furnish them with those sacred records, which, if seriously perused, will insure their good conduct, while they promote their present comfort and guide them to future happiness. It may be said, that most servants are furnished with Bibles by their masters; but it has been very generally observed, that Bibles thus provided are not so justly valued as those which are purchased by themselves, and thus become a part of their individual property.

"These observations are respectfully presented to your consideration: and if you approve of them, you are solicited to speak to your servants upon the subject; the regulations of this society not permitting any collector to apply to a servant, except through the medium or by permission of her

mistress. If your servants become subscribers, their subscriptions will be called for, either quarterly, monthly, or weekly, at your pleasure; and in due time, Bibles and Testaments will be delivered to them, either at or under the cost prices, and considerably cheaper than they could be purchased at a bookseller's.

"Donations and free-subscriptions will be thankfully received by the collectors, in order to enable the society to deliver Bibles at reduced prices, or gratuitously to those who are unable to pay the cost price.

"Should a consideration of these suggestions, which are respectfully submitted, induce you, Madam, to favour the society with your personal co-operation, as a member of one of the District Associations, your name will be gratefully received. More than 10,000 British Ladies are now engaged in this important and interesting employment, which requires the appropriation of only one hour in the week. Many Ladies of the highest rank and station take an active part in the proceedings of similar societies; and the practical results have more than surpassed the most sanguine anticipations of those connected with the institution: habits of order, sobriety, cleanliness, decorum, and loyalty, have been acquired by the labouring classes; and the general welfare of society has been sensibly and essentially promoted, wherever a Ladies' Bible Association has been established.

By order of the Committee,

A. B.
C. D. } Secretaries."
E. F.

7. The forms of the Books and Papers, and the mode of keeping the accounts, resemble in many particulars those of an Auxiliary Society, which have been minutely described in Chapter II., Section V. Where any difference exists, it will be distinctly pointed out in the subsequent observations.

*** *In all the following Specimens, the entries in Italics, and the amounts of moneys, are to be considered as manuscript.*

NO. I.—MINUTE BOOK.

The rough and fair Minute Books are precisely similar in form to those of an Auxiliary Society. The following specimen, which includes the proceedings of the first and second meetings of the Committee, will sufficiently illustrate the mode of transacting the business.

At a Meeting of the Presidents, Treasurers, and Secretaries of the several Ladies' Bible Associations in the towns of Plymouth, Plymouth Dock, Stonehouse, and their vicinity;—

PRESENT,

A. B. in the Chair;
and the following Officers of the respective Associations,

[*Here follow the names*]

with Messrs.——[*here follow the names of the Secretaries of the Auxiliary Society, and that of a gentleman who attended on behalf of the Parent Institution*], Visitors.

Minutes of the *First* Committee Meeting.

The following Resolutions were unanimously adopted :—

1. That a Ladies' Branch of the Auxiliary Bible Society of these towns be now established, of which the following shall be the Rules and Regulations:—
(*See the Second Division of this Section.*)

2. That the regular meetings of the Committee be held on the last Tuesday in every month, at eleven o'clock precisely, in the forenoon; and that the said meetings be held at the Lecture-room of the Literary and Philosophical Society, Plymouth Dock, until a suitable Depository be opened.

3. That the following be the By-laws of the Committee:—
(*See the Fourth Division of this Section.*)

4. That the following Ladies be the Officers of this Society; viz.

Mrs. *H.*	Treasurer.
Miss *C. D.*	Minute Secretary.
Miss *E. F.*	Cash Secretary.
Miss *G. H.*	Bible Secretary.

5. That the Minute Secretary be requested to have 250 copies of the Rules and By-laws printed, and to send three copies to every member of the Committee.

6. That the Address to the Mistresses of Families, now produced and read, (*see the Sixth Division of this Section*) be adopted; and that the Minute Secretary be requested to have 1000 copies printed, and an adequate number sent to the Minute Secretary of each Association, to be addressed and circulated at the discretion of the collectors.

7. That the Minute Secretary be requested to have 100 Committee-cards* printed, and to have two copies sent to every member of the Committee.

8. That the Minute Secretary be requested to fulfil the duty prescribed by the Eighth General Rule.

9. That *I.K.*, *L.M.*, and *N.O.*, be requested to examine and report to the next meeting, where a suitable place can be procured for a depositary. *I.K.* to act as Secretary of this Sub-committee.

10. That the District Committees be requested to report to the next meeting, the number of copies of the "Monthly Extracts" required by their respective Associations, in order to enable this Committee to order a suitable regular supply.

11. That *P.Q.* and *R.S.* be appointed Auditors for the present year.

12. That the Minute Secretary be requested to furnish the District Committees, and other parties interested, with Forms of the several Reports required by the By-laws, as early as possible.

13. That the Secretaries address an application to the following Ladies, respectfully soliciting their patronage of this institution:
[*Here follow the Names of several Ladies of distinguished rank and character.*]

14. That this Committee adjourn to Tuesday, the 24th instant, at 11 o'clock.

The importance of completing all the preliminary arrangements as soon as possible, so as to get the society regularly organized, justifies a Special Committee Meeting in this early stage of the proceedings. This consideration will be strengthened, if the services of Gentlemen connected with the Parent Institution can be obtained;

* See Specimen, No. 10 of this Section.

Minutes of the *Second* Committee Meeting.

as the advantage of their assistance will be so far appreciated as to prevent their unnecessary detention. The subsequent Minutes embrace the usual proceedings at the Second Committee Meeting.

At the Second Meeting of the Committee, 24th November, 1818;—

PRESENT,

A.B. in the Chair.

C.D., *E.F.*, *G.H.*, and *I.K.*, Visitors;

and those Ladies whose names are marked off in the list:—

The Minutes of the last meeting having been read, it was RESOLVED—

15. That the said Minutes be confirmed.

16. The Minute Secretary reported, that the 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, and 12th Minutes were complied with.

17. *I.K.*, on behalf of the Sub-Committee appointed by the 9th Minute, reported, that they had seen and provisionally engaged a very eligible room for a Depository at Mr. W—'s, No. —, —— Street, at the annual rent of six guineas, subject to the approval of the Committee.

18. RESOLVED, That this meeting approve and confirm the said engagement; and that the Treasurer and Secretaries be requested to have the room properly fitted up as a Depository.

19. That the Minute Secretary request the Committee of the Auxiliary Society to order from the Parent Institution, on account of this Committee, a regular monthly supply of six hundred copies of the "Extracts of Correspondence," for the connected Associations.

20. That the 13th Minute be continued.

21. Reports were presented and read from the Treasurers of the respective Associations, of which the following is an abstract:—

	Received this month. £.	s.	d.		Voted to the Branch. £.	s.	d.
1. Charles'	58	1	6	.....	50	0	0
2. St. Andrews'	48	0	6	.....	40	0	0
3. Northern Dock	41	10	7	.....	35	0	0
4. Southern Dock	46	16	5	.....	40	0	0
5. Stonehouse	48	2	10	.....	45	0	0
6. Stoke, &c.	26	0	7	.....	20	0	0
7. Torpoint	34	16	6	.....	30	0	0
8. Millbrook	19	3	5	.....	15	0	0
	£. 322	12	4		£. 275	0	0

22. Reports were presented and read from the several District Committees in order; and it was resolved, that the said Reports be received.

23. The depository not being yet opened, no report was presented by the Bible Secretary.

24. The Cash Secretary reported, that the total amount paid in this day by the Treasurers of the several Associations, is £. 275.

25. RESOLVED, That the said sum of £. 275 be paid to the Treasurer.

26. The Treasurer presented her report, by which it appears that the amount in her hands is £. 275.

27. RESOLVED, That the Treasurer be requested to remit £. 250 to the Cash Secretary of the Auxiliary Society, on *Purchase* Account.

28. That the Bible Secretary be requested to order from the Bible Secretary of the Auxiliary Society, Bibles and Testaments, at cost prices,

of such descriptions as she may deem most suitable, to an amount not exceeding 250*l.*

29. The Minute Secretary presented a copy of the Rules and Regulations of the *Ivy-bridge* Ladies' Association, formed on the 23d instant in connexion with this society; and reported that the following Ladies had been elected officers of that institution, viz.

Mrs. *A.* . . . President.
Mrs. *B.* . . . Treasurer.
Miss *C.* . . . Minute Secretary.
Mrs. *D.* . . . Cash Secretary.
Miss *E. F.* . . Bible Secretary,

whom she had supplied with the requisite books and papers.

30. RESOLVED, That it be strongly recommended to the Committee of every Association in connexion with this society, to establish, by private subscription, a *Loan-fund*, for the purchase of Bibles and Testaments, or Testaments only, at their discretion; and that a copy of the Rules* of such institution be transmitted, with this Resolution, to the respective Minute Secretaries.

31. That this Meeting do now adjourn.

NO. II.—REPORT BOOK.

This book is designed to be a register of the facts and observations contained in the Monthly Reports of the District Committees. But it is respectfully submitted, that the necessity of such a record, and the trouble of transcribing from these documents, may be altogether obviated by the plan of pasting the Reports in what is called a Guard Book (*See Chap.* II. *Section* IV. 9*th division*); a few leaves at the beginning of which may be appropriated to the purposes of an Index, to promote facility of reference when preparing the Annual Report, &c. For instance, the following, among other heads, may be adopted; the figures referring to the pages which contain illustrations of the subject:—

"Advantages of the Loan-fund"—3, 8, 22, 36, 41.
"Advantage of circulating the Monthly Extracts"—2, 7, 13.
"Collateral Benefits"—1, 4, 11, 14, 23, 33, 40.

Those societies which prefer the former mode, of copying the Facts and Observations contained in the Reports, will find the proper book for this purpose described in Section V.

NO. III.—CASH BOOK.

This book is precisely similar to the Leger of an Auxiliary Society (*see Chap.* II. *Section* V. *No.* 3.), except that it may be of a smaller size. The only accounts required to be kept, are those with the Treasurer, the Auxiliary Society, every separate Association, and incidental expenses; and a few folios at the end may be reserved for the Annual Statement, on the plan recommended to Auxiliary Societies, *Chap.* II. *Section* V. *No.* 11.

* See Chapter VIII. Section II.

Bible Book.—Order Book.—Treasurer's Book.

NO. IV.—BIBLE BOOK.

This has been already described under the title of "Depositary's Book," (*Chap.* II. *Section* V. *No. 5.*); and the only points of difference are, that the Bibles and Testaments are received from the Auxiliary Society, and the issues are restricted to the respective Associations. The last column on the Credit side should consequently be omitted, in preparing this book for a Ladies' Branch Society.

NO. V.—BIBLE SECRETARY'S ORDER BOOK.

This Book has been fully described, as No. 4 in Section V. of Chapter II.; and the few alterations required in reference to a Ladies' Branch Society will readily suggest themselves. But as the duties of a Depositary are, in more than one institution of this description, discharged by the Bible Secretary, it may be necessary to observe, that where this is the case, the middle form, marked "B," may be altogether dispensed with.

When the Bible Secretary of an Association sends an order for Bibles and Testaments, the Depositary first ascertains whether the stock on hand enables her to comply with it: if not, it should be returned, and a fresh order be given for that part which *can* be supplied. Such disappointments will rarely occur, if due care be taken to maintain a sufficient and assorted stock in the depository; but it is of material consequence that the entries in the Bible Book shall agree with the vouchers. If, as already recommended, the orders be given to the Branch Bible Secretary at the regular Committee-meetings, delay will generally be avoided; as she can immediately ascertain the state of the stock on hand, by reference to her report on the table.

Of the preceding Books, Nos. 1 and 2 are kept by the *Minute* Secretary; No. 3, by the *Cash* Secretary; and Nos. 4 and 5, by the *Bible* Secretary.

NO. VI.—TREASURER'S BOOK.

This may be of octavo size, ruled like a common account book; in which the Treasurer, for her own satisfaction, keeps a duplicate copy of her account as entered in the Cash Book. The following specimen will afford a sufficient illustration:—

D^r. The Ladies' Branch of the Plymouth, &c. Auxiliary Bible Society. C^r.

1818.		£. s. d.	1818.		£. s. d.
Nov. 25.	*To Auxiliary Society, on Purchase Account*	250. 0. 0	*Nov.* 24.	*By Cash Secretary*	275. 0. 0
			Dec. 27.	*Ditto ditto*	316. 10. 0
Dec. 28.	*D^o. on Purchase Account*	300. 0. 0		*Lady B.——, Donation*	21. 0. 0
	Cash Secretary, for Incidental Expenses	7. 2. 6	1819. *Jan.* 25.	*Cash Secretary*	520. 0. 0
1819. *Jan.* 26.	*Auxiliary Society, for General Object*	500. 0. 0		*Hon. Mrs. G.—, Annual*	5. 5. 0

Specimen of the Treasurer's Monthly Report.

It will be recollected, that the Treasurer makes no payment without receiving a copy of the minute which authorises it; and which is preserved as her voucher, and produced to the Auditors at the end of the year, when the Annual Statement of receipts and disbursements is prepared. *See Chap.* II. *Section* V. *No.* 11.

NO. VII.—TREASURER'S REPORT.

This Report is presented to every Monthly Meeting of the Committee, pursuant to the VIIth By-Law, and requires no further explanation than is afforded in the following specimen:—

No. 3.

LADIES' BRANCH
OF THE
PLYMOUTH, &c. AUXILIARY BIBLE SOCIETY.

The TREASURER'S Report of Receipts and Disbursements, from the 27th of *December*, 1818, to the 25th of *January*, 1819.

	RECEIVED.	£. s. d.
1819.	Balance in hand, ℔ last Month's Report.	362 . 10 . 0
25 *Jan.*	From Cash Secretary this day, on account of Associations	520 . 0 . 0
	Ditto . . ditto . . Donations and Subscriptions	5 . 5 . 0
	Total to account for . . £.	887 . 15 . 0

1818.	PAID.	£. s. d.	
28 *Dec.*	To the Auxiliary Society, on Purchase Account	300 . 0 . 0	
	on Moiety Account	. . . . .	
	for General Object .	. . . . .	
	Cash Secretary, for Incidental Expenses . .	7 . 2 . 6	307 . 2 . 6
	Balance in hand, this day . £.		580 . 12 . 6

A.B. TREASURER.

NO. VIII.—CASH SECRETARY'S MONTHLY STATEMENT.

This document is filled up *previous* to every Committee-meeting, and consequently does not include the money paid in by the several Associations at that particular meeting. It is designed to exhibit a clear abstract of the financial concerns of the society, and serves as a general check on all the accounts. The Specimen subjoined precludes the necessity of farther explanation, except in reference to the first column, which contains the respective amounts remitted since the last annual meeting. That of the Plymouth, &c. Society, being held in September, accounts for the comparatively small amounts entered.

Cash Secretary's Monthly Statement.

No. 26. LADIES' BRANCH OF THE PLYMOUTH, &c. AUXILIARY BIBLE SOCIETY.

CASH SECRETARY'S Monthly Statement, presented 29*th* of *December*, 1820.

STATE OF THE SOCIETY'S FUNDS ON THE 28*th* OF *December*.

Associations.	Amount paid this Year.	Amount paid since Establishment.	Amount of Bibles, &c. received.	Amount voted for General Object.	Amount due by Branch Society.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Charles'	35.0.0	483.12. 6	309. 6.10	87. 7. 6	87.18. 2
St. Andrews' .	22.0.0	342.19.11	210.14.11	66. 2. 6	66. 2. 6
Northern Dock	20.0.0	350. 5. 7	216.10. 0	66.17.10	66.17.10
Southern Dock	36.0.0	432.19. 9	280. 4.11	76. 7. 5	76. 7. 5
Stonehouse . .	15.0.0	255.15. 9	172. 1. 2	41.17. 4	41.17. 3
Stoke, &c. ..	18.0.0	272. 1. 5	171.18. 3	50. 1. 6	50. 1. 7
Torpoint . . .	8.0.0	183.19. 5	137. 7. 4	23. 6. 0	23. 6. 0
Millbrook . . .	5.0.0	137. 1.10	80. 9. 6	28. 6. 2	28. 6. 2
Ivy-Bridge . .	5.0.0	85.13. 5	59. 7. 9	13. 2.10	13. 2.10
Saltash	12.0.0	147.13. 6	86.19. 9	30. 6.11	30. 6.11
Brixham	12.0.0	178. 4.10	143.16.10	16. 4. 0	17. 4. 0
£.	188.0.0	2870. 7.11	1868.17. 3	500. 0. 0	501.10. 8

	This Year.	Since Establishment.
RECEIVED.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
From the connected Associations	188. 0. 0	2870. 7.11
In Donations and Subscriptions to this Society.....	0. 0. 0	0. 0. 0
	188. 0. 0	2870. 7.11
PAID.		
To the Auxiliary Society.—On Purchase Account.....	186. 0. 0	2324. 3. 4
On Moiety Account	0. 0. 0	0. 0. 0
For General Object	0. 0. 0	500. 0. 0
To the Cash Secretary, for Incidental Expenses.....	0. 0. 0	57. 7. 4
		2881.10. 8
Balance due by the Auxiliary Society		838. 4. 3
Ditto in the Treasurer's hands		2. 0. 0
Total unapplied balance ..... £.		840. 4. 3

C. D. CASH SECRETARY.

NO. IX.—BIBLE SECRETARY'S MONTHLY REPORT.

This Report, like the preceding, is filled up previous to the Committee-meeting, and contains a detailed account of all Bibles and Testaments received and delivered, with the stock on hand. A similar document, as connected with an Auxiliary Society, having been fully described in Chapter II. Section V. No. 7. it is only necessary to refer to the Specimen there given.—The few verbal alterations necessary, in order to adapt the form to a Ladies' Branch Society, will be readily perceived.

NO. X.—COMMITTEE CARD.

It has been observed, in the fifth division of this Section, that every member should be furnished, annually, with a Committee Card, and that any further intimation of the regular monthly meetings will be unnecessary. The expense of issuing notices to those Ladies who reside at a distance from the place of meeting, is frequently considerable; and this, with the attendant trouble, is completely obviated by the expedient now recommended. The following Specimen is a transcript of the Card adopted at Plymouth; and by introducing the "Auxiliary" Society, a still further saving of expense is effected.

PLYMOUTH, PLYMOUTH-DOCK, STONEHOUSE, &c.

AUXILIARY BIBLE SOCIETY.

MONTHLY COMMITTEE-MEETINGS, 1820—1821.

Society.	Day.	Hour.	Place.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.
AUXILIARY	3d Friday	6 P.M.	*Workhouse Dock*	17		19		16		18		20		21	
			Ditto Plymouth		15		16		20		15		17		19
LADIES' BRANCH	last Friday	11 A.M.	*Depository*	24		26		30		25		27		28	
			Lecture Room, Dock		29		23		27		29		31		26
CHARLES'	2d Friday	11 A.M.	*Guildhall*	10	8	12	9	9	13	11	8	13	10	14	12
ST. ANDREW'S	3d Friday	11 A.M.	*Ditto*	17	15	19	16	16	20	18	15	20	17	21	19
STONEHOUSE	2d Thurs.	11 A.M.	*Adult School*	9	14	11	8	8	12	10	14	12	9	13	11
NORTHERN DOCK	1st Friday	11 A.M.	*Lecture Room*	3	1	5	2	2	6	4	1	6	3	7	5
SOUTHERN DOCK	2d Wed.	11 A.M.	*Ditto*	8	13	10	14	14	11	9	13	11	8	12	10
STOKE, &c.	3d Wed.	11 A.M.	*Ditto*	15	20	17	21	21	18	16	20	18	15	19	17
TORPOINT	1st Mond.	6 P.M.	*Members' Houses*	6	4	1	5	5	2	7	4	2	6	3	1
MILLBROOK, &c.	1st Friday	NOON	*Maker Girls' School*	3	1	5	2	2	6	4	1	6	3	7	5
IVY-BRIDGE	1st Thurs.	11 A.M.	*Members' Houses*	2	7	4	1	1	5	3	7	5	2	6	4
SALTASH	3d Wed.	10 A.M.	*Tamar Hall*	15	20	17	21	21	18	16	20	18	15	19	17
BRIXHAM	1st Friday	2 P.M.	*Club-Room*	3	1	5	2	2	6	4	1	6	3	7	5

On the other side of the Card, the name of the member for whose use it is designed is inserted, with the following intimation. —"It is earnestly hoped, that, by a strict attention to this Card, a punctual attendance of the respective Committees may be obtained, and the society be relieved from the many disadvantages which must inevitably accompany a neglect of this most important duty."

The public proceedings conducted exclusively by Gentlemen.

The Monthly Reports presented by the District Committees, and by the Treasurers of the respective Associations, will be considered in Section V., as more properly appertaining to that division of the Chapter.

8. In no respect are the advantages of a Ladies' Branch Society more conspicuous, than in the facilities afforded by them to the extension of the system of Female Associations. Where every requisite and proper assistance can be given by qualified individuals of their own sex, the laudable desire to form those important institutions is promptly and efficiently met; while the best security is attained for their proceeding on firm ground, and maintaining unimpaired the simple principles of their establishment.

This remark finds its best illustration in the history of the Liverpool, Manchester, and Plymouth Societies; which have gradually extended their limits beyond the districts originally embraced; and have thereby not only preserved, but increased their strength, and essentially promoted the general cause. Without exercising any authority but that which is cheerfully conceded by the respective Associations, and without the power of evincing any undue partiality, this centre of unity and concord attracts the confidence and affection of the various Committees, and preserves the order and regularity of the whole.

It may not be altogether unnecessary to observe, that even when assisting in the establishment and organization of new Associations, the Branch Committees alluded to have never taken any part in the *public* proceedings connected with such institutions, which have wholly devolved on the gentlemen of the respective Auxiliary Societies. If any circumstance have occurred, calculated to justify the fear which has, in some few quarters, been expressed in reference to female exertion, it has been concealed with unexampled caution and success, and has never reached the ears of those who are most deeply interested in detecting and correcting the evil. On the contrary, it is but justice to remark, that the prudence, the decorum, and the propriety, which have marked the operations of Ladies' Bible Societies, and characterized the demeanour of those by whom they are conducted, can only be equalled by the zeal and diligence they have manifested, and the unparalleled success of their proceedings.

9. This section of the chapter cannot with propriety be closed, without transcribing the Resolutions of the Committee previous to the Annual Meeting, which, it will be recollected, is held jointly with that of the Auxiliary Society. The

example selected is that of the Plymouth Branch; and the Minute relative to Pawnbrokers is extracted, as containing decisive testimony on a subject which has too frequently afforded a pretext to the lukewarm and indifferent. The resolutions which relate to the regular business of the Committee are, of course, omitted, having been already detailed in the 7th division of this section.

At the 12th Meeting of the Committee, 13th September 1819,—

187. The Sub-Committee appointed by the 171st Minute, to ascertain the truth of certain reports relative to the Pawnbrokers, reported as follows:—

"On the most minute investigation in the town of PLYMOUTH, we are convinced that the objection to the Society on this ground is totally unsupported. Very few copies, comparatively, have been even offered as pledges; and those have been refused, except in one instance; and in this the Bible *was redeemed within the week.* Not a single copy was found in the possession of the Pawnbrokers. In the town of PLYMOUTH DOCK, twenty-two houses of this description were visited, but not a single Bible or Testament issued by the Society was found. We were received with civility and respect; and informed, that in the few instances in which copies had been pledged, *they were redeemed within a few days*, and that during the last five or six months none had been offered as pledges.

In the town of STONEHOUSE, the result of the investigation was equally satisfactory, not one copy being discovered at the Pawnbrokers' shops." *

188. The Minute Secretary having read a communication from the Committee of the Auxiliary Society, stating that the Annual Meeting of that institution was fixed for the 30th instant, it was resolved,

189. That the Secretaries be requested to prepare the draught of a report to the ensuing general meeting, and submit the same to a future meeting of this Committee.

190. That the Treasurer be requested to pay over to the Auxiliary Society, on Purchase Account, the balance which she shall have in hand on the 26th inst.

191. That the Auditors be requested to prepare and present a statement of the funds of the Society, made up and balanced to the 27th instant.

192. That the Bible Secretary make up her accounts to the 27th instant, and present a statement of all Bibles and Testaments received and issued, and the stock then on hand, to a future meeting of this Committee.

193. That a Circular be immediately addressed to the several Associations connected with this society, requesting that their annual reports may be presented to the adjournment of this Committee on the 22d instant, with the names of the Officers and Committee for the ensuing year; and that the balance in the hands of their respective Treasurers, after deducting incidental expenses, be paid over at the same time.

194. That this Meeting adjourn to the 22d instant, to receive the reports of the several Associations.

It is not necessary to detail the subsequent proceedings arising out of these Resolutions. The Annual Report, after being adopted by the Committee, is transmitted, with an Abstract of the Cash and Bible Accounts, and a list of the Branch Officers and Committee for the ensuing year, to the

* The result of this inquiry will be the more gratifying, when it is stated, that at this period nearly 1700 Bibles and Testaments had been circulated by the Ladies' Society alone, besides 5000 copies previously distributed by the Auxiliary Society.

Abstract of the Results of the Liverpool Society.

Minute Secretary of the Auxiliary Society, by whom it is submitted to the General Meeting.

The following Statement of the Results of the five Ladies' Branch Societies already enumerated, will exhibit a clear view of their proceeding to the 1st of January, 1821, and afford a gratifying evidence of their efficiency.

LADIES' BRANCH
OF THE
LIVERPOOL AUXILIARY BIBLE SOCIETY,
Established Dec. 1817.

ASSOCIATIONS.	Total Number of Collectors, &c.	Number of Districts.	Free Contributors.	Bible Subscribers.	Total.	Bibles distributed.	Testaments distributed.	Total.	Persons supplied with Loan Testaments.	Total Amount paid to the Branch Society. £. s. d.
HARRINGTON	42	27	397	973	1370	537	251	788	63	440 . 3 . 8
ST. JAMES'S	55	42	388	1263	1651	489	300	789	111	410 . 14 . 6
GREAT GEORGE SQUARE	54	36	600	1139	1739	741	167	908	70	676 . 15 . 11
CASTLE STREET . . .	58	35	673	1082	1755	499	237	736	46	483 . 4 . 9
ST. PAUL'S	92	32	544	1386	1930	689	366	1055	53	550 . 11 . 10
MARY-LE-BONNE . . .	54	39	382	1434	1816	550	393	943	86	454 . 12 . 3
ST. ANNE'S	46	27	299	948	1247	455	153	608	39	415 . 11 . 0
QUEEN SQUARE . . .	76	31	571	998	1569	511	161	672	45	473 . 13 . 1
EVERTON, KIRKDALE, &c.	34	9	169	313	482	162	67	229	4	232 . 4 . 9
EDGE HILL, &c. . . .	29	17	164	278	442	145	55	200	..	197 . 2 . 10
WEST DERBY, &c. . .	19	12	102	240	342	166	121	287	18	142 . 12 . 8
ST. THOMAS'S	17	17	202	225	427	45	12	57	8	83 . 1 . 4
LITHERLAND	12	8	86	102	188	46	110	156	1	65 . 18 . 5
TRANMERE	6	11	27	86	113	4	13	17	2	34 . 0 . 0
WOOLTON	6	10	52	104	156	33	30	63	2	48 . 0 . 0
BRANCH COMMITTEE . .	96	..	700	..	700	..	..	2247	107	641 . 19 . 1
TOTAL . . .	696	353	5356	10571	15927	5072	2436	9755	655	5350 . 6 . 1

Distributed, at Cost price, 4979 copies . . . . Under Cost prices, 4776.
Remitted for General Object, £.1642. 8s.
Estimated Population of the District embraced by the Society, 110,000.

LADIES' BRANCH
OF THE
MANCHESTER AND SALFORD AUXILIARY BIBLE SOCIETY.

Established May 1818.

ASSOCIATIONS.	Total Number of Collectors, &c.	Number of Districts.	Free Contributors.	Bible Subscribers.	Total.	Bibles distributed.	Testaments distributed.	Total.	Persons supplied with Loan Testaments.	Total Amount paid to the Branch Society.
										£. s. d.
New Cross	13	29	97	317	414	130	59	189	4	83 . 3 . 11
St. Michael's . . .	14	36	62	361	423	179	71	250	23	112 . 0 . 0
Exchange, &c. . .	19	22	112	236	348	116	26	142	4	98 . 0 . 0
St. Clement's . .	24	38	117	450	567	186	78	264	13	153 . 4 . 2
St. Paul's	17	19	26	278	304	130	44	174	7	85 . 8 . 10
Minshull	9	22	26	258	284	125	26	151	3	85 . 0 . 0
St. James's . . .	28	21	144	303	447	128	64	192	26	129 . 14 . 4
St. Anne's, &c. . .	22	30	163	226	389	98	31	129	9	103 . 18 . 6
St. Peter's, &c. . .	22	45	72	365	437	190	63	253	8	135 . 0 . 0
Trinity	28	17	275	607	882	282	90	372	16	239 . 0 . 6
St. Stephen's . . .	30	31	245	739	984	369	113	482	64	309 . 2 . 9
Pendleton, &c. . .	16	14	132	434	566	214	86	300	6	145 . 4 . 0
Ardwick	26	19	132	395	527	183	64	247	6	198 . 1 . 6
Patricroft, &c. . .	17	17	60	496	556	274	144	418	6	157 . 0 . 0
Branch Committee .	...	...	89	...	89	128	62	190	...	283 . 19 . 7
Total . . .	285	360	1752	5465	7217	2732	1021	3753	195	2317 . 18 . 1

Distributed, at Cost prices, 2539 copies . . . . Under Cost prices, 1214.

Remitted for General Object, £.100.

Estimated Population of the District embraced by the Society, 120,000.

LADIES' BRANCH

OF THE

PLYMOUTH, &c. AUXILIARY BIBLE SOCIETY.

Established Oct. 1818.

ASSOCIATIONS.	Total Number of Collectors.	Number of Districts.	Free Contributors.	Bible Subscribers.	Total.	Bibles distributed.	Testaments distributed.	Total.	Persons supplied with Loan Testaments.	Total Amount paid to the Branch Society.
										£. s. d.
CHARLES'	50	38	606	1281	1887	499	255	754	83	483 . 12 . 6
ST. ANDREW'S . . .	32	39	553	928	1481	426	126	552	28	342 . 19 . 11
NORTHERN DOCK . .	35	21	643	944	1587	414	153	567	45	350 . 5 . 7
SOUTHERN DOCK . .	37	27	857	1340	2197	523	271	794	50	432 . 19 . 9
STONEHOUSE . . .	25	27	435	663	1098	288	104	392	34	255 . 15 . 9
STOKE & MORRISTOWN	31	20	437	773	1210	330	164	494	21	272 . 1 . 5
TORPOINT	17	8	156	392	548	227	116	343	0	183 . 19 . 5
MILLBROOK, &c. . .	18	14	130	276	406	118	75	193	8	137 . 1 . 10
IVY-BRIDGE	38	9	108	175	283	109	28	137	0	85 . 13 . 5
SALTASH	24	17	102	410	512	117	124	241	13	147 . 13 . 6
BRIXHAM	39	38	136	537	673	201	151	352	0	178 . 4 . 10
TOTAL . . .	346	258	4163	7719	11882	3252	1567	4819	282	2870 . 7 . 11

Distributed at Cost prices 3841 copies . . . . Under Cost prices, 978.

Remitted, for General Object, £.500.

Estimated Population of the District embraced by the Society, 75,000.

Hull.—Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

LADIES' BRANCH
OF THE KINGSTON-UPON-HULL AUXILIARY BIBLE SOCIETY.

Established in March 1819.

ASSOCIATIONS.	Total Number of Collectors, &c.	Number of Districts.	Free Contributors.	Bible Subscribers.	Total.	Bibles distributed.	Testaments distributed.	Total.	Persons supplied with Loan Testaments.	Total Amount paid to the Branch Society. £.	s.	d.
East Hull . . .	19	18	285	375	660	129	71	200	4	164	6	4
West Hull . . .	24	24	349	520	869	228	101	329	3	239	12	4
Myton	30	31	289	741	1030	276	147	423	6	289	6	6
Sculcoates, &c. .	42	36	373	781	1154	273	200	473	5	316	10	10
Drypool, &c. . .	10	15	123	307	430	137	109	246	2	107	9	2
Cottingham, &c. .	10	7	127	137	264	67	24	91	0	109	12	0
Hessle, &c. . .	14	8	50	109	159	59	33	92	0	54	17	5
Total . . .	149	139	1596	2970	4566	1169	685	1854	20	1281	14	7

Distributed at Cost prices, 1811 copies. . . Under Cost prices, 43.
Remitted for General object, £. 407 . 5 . 5.
Estimated Population of the District embraced by the Society, 42,000.

LADIES' BRANCH
OF THE NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE AUXILIARY BIBLE SOCIETY.

Established in November 1819.

ASSOCIATIONS.	Total Number of Collectors, &c.	Number of Districts.	Free Contributors.	Bible Subscribers.	Total.	Bibles distributed.	Testaments distributed.	Total.	Persons supplied with Loan Testaments.	Total Amount paid to the Branch Society. £.	s.	d.
St. Andrew's . .	15	12	141	312	453	85	39	124	7	114	0	0
St. John's . . .	10	16	129	287	416	88	49	137	11	94	0	0
St. Nicholas . .	12	10	71	221	292	68	36	104	5	64	0	0
Pilgrim Street .	21	12	68	209	277	69	24	93	1	62	0	0
Pandon	10	8	44	130	174	48	22	70	5	49	0	0
Sandgate . . .	4	3	0	65	65	5	10	15	0	6	2	6
Gateshead . . .	6	12	36	300	336	67	68	135	7	76	0	0
Total . .	78	73	489	1524	2013	430	248	678	36	465	2	6

Distributed at Cost prices 660 copies . . . . Under Cost prices, 18.
Remitted, for General Object, £.100.
Estimated Population of the District embraced by the Society, 40,000.

Abstract of the Results of the Liverpool and other Branch Societies.

RECAPITULATION.

Aggregate Population	387,000
Dº. . . Number of Districts	1,183
of Collectors, &c.	1,554
of Free Contributors	13,356
of Bible Subscribers	28,249
of Bibles and Testaments distributed	20,859
of Persons supplied with Loans	1,188
Amount paid	£.12,285 . 9 . 2
Amount voted for General Object	£. 2,749 . 15 . 5

It will be observed, that the proportion which the total number of Contributors and Subscribers bears to the Population is,—

In Liverpool	about	1 to 7
Manchester	—	1 to 16
Plymouth, &c.	—	1 to 6
Hull	—	1 to 9
Newcastle-on-Tyne	—	1 to 20

And that the ratio of Collectors, when compared with the population, is precisely similar. This furnishes a conclusive evidence, that it is only necessary to increase the number of those valuable Agents, in order to extend an interest in the cause, and diffuse more widely the advantages and blessings of the system.

SECTION III.

ON LADIES' BIBLE ASSOCIATIONS.

It has been observed, that the Parent Institution assumes no control over the internal arrangements of Local Societies; and that the recognition and strict observance of its fundamental principle, alone, constitutes the bond of union. But the advantages of one uniform mode of proceeding in all societies of the same designation, are evident: and among them, no one is more important than the security which is thus afforded, that the integrity of this principle will be maintained throughout every part of the system.

1. The following are the RULES recommended by the Committee of the Parent Society for adoption by Ladies' Bible Associations:—

I. That we form ourselves into an Association, in connexion with the British and Foreign Bible Society, through the medium of the ——— Auxiliary

[or Branch] Bible Society, for the purpose of contributing towards the circulation of the holy scriptures "without note or comment," particularly in ——— and its vicinity; and that this Association be denominated "The ——— Ladies' Bible Association."

II. That all persons, subscribing the sum of one penny, or upwards, per week, or making a donation of one guinea or upwards, at one time, shall be members of this Association.

III. That the business of this Association shall be conducted by a Committee, to be chosen annually, consisting of a Treasurer, —— Secretaries, and not less than —— other members, eligible for re-election, and under the patronage of such other honorary members as the Society or Committee shall select and obtain.

IV. That the Committee meet once a month, or oftener, if necessary, on a day to be fixed by themselves; and that ——— members be empowered to act.

V. That, for the purpose of soliciting and collecting donations and subscriptions, the Committee divide this neighbourhood into districts, and appoint one or more collectors from among themselves to each district; and that these contributions be paid to the Treasurer at the Monthly Committee Meetings.

VI. That the Committee make it their business to inquire, Whether any families or individuals, residing within the limits of this Association, are in want of Bibles or Testaments, and unable to procure them: in which case it shall be the duty of the Committee to supply them therewith, at prime cost, or reduced prices, according to their circumstances.

VII. That the funds of this Association, or so much thereof as the Committee shall direct, whether arising from subscriptions, donations, or the sale of Bibles and Testaments, shall, from time to time, be expended in the purchase of Bibles and Testaments at prime cost, to be sold to the poor in the neighbourhood, as before directed; and that any surplus which may arise, be remitted, at the discretion of the Committee, to the ——— Auxiliary [or Branch] Bible Society, in aid of the general purposes of the British and Foreign Bible Society.

VIII. That a General Meeting of the subscribers and friends of the Association be held on such day as shall be fixed on by the Committee in each year, at — o'clock; when the accounts (as audited by the Committee) shall be presented, the proceedings of the past year reported, and a Treasurer, Secretaries, and Committee, chosen for the ensuing year.

IX. That a copy of these Rules, signed by the Secretaries, be transmitted to the Committee of the ——— Auxiliary [or Branch] Bible Society; with a request, that they will grant permission to lay out the funds of this Association in purchasing, at the depository of the said society, Bibles and Testaments at the cost prices.

2. OBSERVATIONS.

The following remarks, in addition to those submitted in Chapter III. Section II. may tend to elucidate the practical operation of these Rules:—

1. When the Association is formed in connexion with a Ladies' Branch Society, the introduction to the *first* Rule should be thus expressed:—"That we form ourselves into an Association in con-

nexion with the British and Foreign Bible Society, through the medium of the Ladies' Branch of the ——— Auxiliary Society."

In this, as in the primary regulation of every Bible Society, the single object of the institution is distinctly recognised. On this subject it has been justly observed,—"Its grand design is, to circulate the volume of divine inspiration among all the nations of mankind, in all their several languages. This is its sole business: it intermeddles with nothing else. It distributes the Scriptures—the whole of the Scriptures—and nothing but the Scriptures. It gives them, as GOD has given them, without note or comment; pleading the example of GOD as its precedent; and relying on the blessing of GOD for success." ..... "Blend this object with others, and you dissolve the charm that binds the whole together;—you narrow again the sphere of co-operation, by unavoidably touching, in some degree or other, on party peculiarities;—you introduce variations of sentiment, and scruples of conscience;—and by bringing Christian association back to its former circumscribed state, you destroy one of the chief glories of the singular period in which we have the happiness to live."

II. It is a mistaken idea to suppose that the funds of Bible Associations are derived, exclusively, from the contributions of the labouring classes. They have, in numerous instances, been augmented by the liberality of individuals in the middle and upper ranks of society; and nothing tends more to encourage the former, than this co-operation on the part of their superiors. At the Annual Meeting of the Liverpool Auxiliary Society, in the year 1813, when a resolution had been adopted for forming Bible Associations, the Chief Magistrate, who presided, after declaring "that he accounted it the greatest honour that could be conferred upon him to have an opportunity of standing up as the warm friend of the Bible;" and avowing his peculiar admiration of the plan of penny-a-week societies; in order to sanction the measure, immediately added, "Put my name at the head of that list, and all my domestics shall become subscribers too."

According to the census of 1811, there are more than 2,100,000 inhabited houses in Great Britain. If each of these furnished only a single subscriber of a penny a week, the annual aggregate amount would exceed *four hundred and fifty thousand pounds*; being considerably more than double the income of all our Bible and Missionary institutions.

III. In addition to the remarks already offered (*Chap.* II. *Sect.* II.) relative to the provisions of the *third* and *fourth* Rules, it is only necessary to observe, that, in order to conduct the business with system and efficiency, *three* Secretaries should be appointed. The number of the Committee will always depend on the extent of the Association.

IV. Allusion has already been made to the inxepediency of large districts; and, in Associations conducted by Ladies, it will be found,

that fifty or sixty houses are amply sufficient for each. The injurious consequences of suffering any individual to collect, who is not a member of the Committee, have likewise been pointed out; but this must be accepted as a *general* remark, since it is evident that places will always be found, especially in large towns, which it would be inconsistent with the delicacy of the female character to visit regularly.—The following extract from the Second Annual Report of the Bristol Association will illustrate the author's meaning, and suggest a mode by which this difficulty may be obviated.

"A young man employed in the coach-office at the Bush Tavern, at an interval of leisure, was talking with three or four of the servants and porters about different religious societies, and, among the rest, about the Bible Society; when, on his observing that hundreds subscribed to it only one penny per week, all said, one after another, "I should not mind that." Immediately he inquired into particulars respecting the Bible Association, and began to solicit subscriptions; and he has obtained, by his own unassisted exertions, forty-eight subscribers for the benefit of the Association, and thirty-one subscribers for Bibles and Testaments, at the Society's prices. It deserves to be particularly noticed, that all these seventy-nine subscribers are composed of book-keepers, coachmen, guards, horse-keepers, porters, and other servants connected with the inns, who probably would never have been prevailed on to subscribe by any other person."

This fact clearly proves the beneficial effects of circulating printed Papers explanatory of the nature, tendency, and effects of Bible Societies. It is scarcely necessary to observe, that the respective individuals who collect in such places should pay over the amount, monthly, to the collectors of the districts in which they are situated.

v. It has been well observed, that "it is no difficult task to *imagine* that the inhabitants of a town or village are adequately supplied with the holy scriptures; but it is difficult and laborious to *investigate* whether they are or are not." The following Extracts from the Annual Reports of Local Societies are selected from an immense number of similar testimonies, which afford decisive evidence, that it is only by the practical operation of the *sixth* Rule that this investigation *can* be prosecuted. In every case, an Auxiliary or Branch Society had been previously established, and had succeeded in attaining its immediate and important object; but was found incompetent to conduct those regular and systematic inquiries, which constitute the peculiar province of Associations, and by which alone an accurate knowledge of the state of the poor can be acquired.

Colchester, 1813.—In one parish connected with the Hinckford Hundred Society, 144 families were visited, consisting of 689 persons: of these there were, 34 families, in which *no person could read;*

80 families having *no copy of either Old or New Testament;*

30 families *having a defective or torn copy of a Bible or Testament.*

Ditto, 1813.—Of 69 families inhabiting one street, in each of which was some person who could read, were found 52 families, embracing about 200

Wants of the Scriptures ascertained—requisite supply furnished.

persons, without either Bible or Testament: of these, 56 individuals expressed their willingness to contribute a penny a-week to obtain a Bible.

North-West London, 1818.—In one division of the Oxford-Market Association, out of 150 subscribers which were obtained, upwards of 90 were in want of Bibles. And in a single court within the limits of the same Association, consisting of ten houses, and containing about sixty families, only *five* copies of the Scriptures were found.

Daventry, 1819.—The necessity for a Ladies' Association at *Byfield* is established by the report of the collectors of one district, who state, "Out of the first twenty-three houses which we visited, there were nineteen families wanting Bibles, being either without them, or those they possessed being torn and useless."

Staffordshire, 1819.—"It was discovered, by actual investigation, that in one village, twenty-nine families, containing 153 individuals, and amounting to about half its population, had amongst them, only *three* Bibles, and *not one* Testament. And there was every reasonable ground for believing that the remaining half of this village, and also three other villages in the near neighbourhood of it, were in a condition equally destitute and deplorable."

Southampton, 1817.—The formation of this society, in 1814, was preceded by an inquiry, the result of which was, that, among 4165 individuals, there were found to be no more than 439 Bibles and 128 Testaments. In September 1816, a Ladies' Association was formed: and in reference to one of the country districts, which the Committee of the Branch Society believed to have been adequately supplied, they observe,—"Your Committee had considered that there was no necessity for their exertions in that quarter; and had accordingly abandoned any intention to do any thing further, than to supply two Bibles to that number of cases recommended to them by a resident. On actual investigation, however, to their great surprise, it appeared that forty-four families (out of sixty visited by the Ladies) were destitute of the holy scriptures; while many others possessed such books alone as were mutilated, and in great part useless."

Doncaster, 1820.—"It is a great argument in favour of Bible Associations, that it is only through their operation that any thing like a true estimate of the want of the Scriptures existing in a district can be obtained. The returns made by Auxiliary Committees have usually fallen far short of the truth; and the actual wants can only be brought to light by the minute investigation of Association collectors. Hence it has not unfrequently happened, where a *hundred* copies of the Scriptures have been reported as wanted, *ten times* that number have been found insufficient. The truth of these remarks has been proved in our own society. Seven years have elapsed since this Auxiliary was established:—at that time, *two hundred and eighty* poor families, amounting to near one-fifth of the population of Doncaster, were reported as destitute; and during the *four years* ending 1817, three hundred copies were circulated, which it might have been plausibly contended would be a sufficient supply. But what is the fact?—A Bible Association was established in 1817; and within *three years*, no fewer than *nine hundred and fourteen* Bibles and Testaments have been distributed to persons who voluntarily and cheerfully enrolled their names as subscribers . . . . As a further proof of the great efficiency of Bible Associations, above every other means of distribution, it may here be mentioned, that through the channel of subscribers to your Auxiliary, resident in *Bawtry*, only *sixty-six* copies of the Scriptures found their way into that town up to 1818; while during the two years the Association has been in operation, *nine hundred and eighty-six* Bibles and Testaments have been issued from the Doncaster depository to answer the demands of Bawtry and the adjacent villages." . . . . The

Readiness of the Poor to contribute to the Foreign object—

parish of *Clayton*, though of circumscribed extent, and with a population not exceeding 300 souls, enjoys all the advantages and all the blessings of a well-ordered Bible Association. The excellent clergyman of that parish thus writes:—"Had not a resource of this nature been within our reach, the earnest applications we have received, could not, as far as I am aware, have been answered to the satisfaction of the parties, with respect either to time, or the most convenient price of the books. . . . . Every day convinces me, that, in accomplishing the establishment of a Bible Institution among the poor people of this place, I have done more towards promoting their best happiness, than would have been effected by the most active personal exertions, unassisted by so truly valuable a support." . . . . . Nothing more, your Committee are persuaded, need be advanced to establish the justice of the following assumption:—That the number of persons returned without the Scriptures, in any particular district, from the enumeration of families, is generally underrated; that the only means of obtaining correct information of the full extent of the deficiency, is through the means of Bible Associations;—and that the most effectual, and therefore the best method of supplying that deficiency, is by such Associations."

VI. Many observations have been submitted in the preceding chapters, with regard to the practical application of the *Seventh* rule. Were it the only object of a Bible Association to satisfy the home demand, one of the most happy effects of these institutions would instantly cease. The labouring classes, might, indeed, be supplied, but they would be deprived of the means now provided for manifesting their interest in the cause;—a cause which attracts by its simplicity, and retains its hold on their affections by the unequivocal evidence of its beneficial results. Nor is it too much to assert, that no part of our population would more unfeignedly lament the adoption of any measure, were it possible that such should be suggested, which could restrict the operations of the Society: it is the *two-fold* object which constitutes its principal beauty, and secures its permanence. The following extracts will sufficiently illustrate this part of the subject.

North, West-London, 1820.—"A poor woman, who supported herself by washing, and letting the spare apartments of her little habitation, subscribed, as a free-will offering, *six-pence* per month to the Fitzroy-Square Association. Deeply impressed with the importance and usefulness of the institution, as her circumstances improved, she increased her subscription to *one* shilling per month. This she continued for three years. Unfortunately, some of her lodgers, in whom she had placed too much confidence, went away without paying her: nearly at the same time, also, her employment was greatly reduced. In consequence of these privations, she was compelled to relinquish her monthly subscription: this she did with expressions of the deepest regret: she said that she felt this painful necessity as the greatest of all her deprivations; for she had felt a pleasure which words could not describe, in contributing her widow's mite to the blessed cause; and she had hoped that her subscription would continue to the end of her days. . . . . Another individual in the same district had been afflicted in her health, and was admitted as a patient into St. George's Hospital. In this situation she received a present of a Bible from a pious young lady, who visited her in her confinement. This Bible she read with devout impressions of its excellence, and with an anxious wish to know and practise the

Instances of their liberality.

will of GOD. Being restored to health and to her home, she felt an earnest desire to extend to other sons and daughters of affliction the support, consolation, and improvement of the divine word, and to express her gratitude by assisting to circulate the holy scriptures. Accordingly, she became a subscriber to the Bible Association; and expressed herself thus to one of the Collectors, who accidentally called at her lodgings: 'You are the person I wished to see; GOD has blessed me with a little work: I have just received the first shilling for it; I wish to devote it to his service.' The Collector, with that wisdom, prudence, and kindness, which should never be lost sight of, remonstrated on the occasion, and declined taking the contribution. The poor woman exclaimed, 'Oh, do not rob me of this only comfort: when distress prevented my contributing, it pierced my heart with sorrow; but now that I can afford to give this *one shilling*, it feels like as if my wounds were healed.'"

Oundle and Thrapston.—For several years, an item has appeared in the Reports of the Society, acknowledging an annual remittance of nearly *two pounds*, from "An Association of some Poor Women, whose names and residence are unknown, of one halfpenny a-week." The *name* of her, whose little contribution was blessed by the SAVIOUR's approval, is not recorded on earth; but He still sits over against the treasury, and knows and marks the motives of those who cast money into it.

Daventry, 1820.—"Two poor women, who have received their Bibles, and paid the full price, after gratefully expressing their thanks to the Society for affording them the opportunity of purchasing the Bible in such an easy way, and indeed the only way in which they could have spared the money, requested they might each be allowed to subscribe for a Bible to give away. They now pay, one twopence, the other threepence per week, for that purpose. How charity expands the heart and fills it with holy zeal! Even the cottager is capable of feeling her heavenly emotions, and shares with the noble and the rich the sacred benediction—'it is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

Westminster, 1816.—"An officer of this Association was called upon by a respectable-looking young woman, apparently a servant, who desired to know whether he received subscriptions for the Bible Association; and on being answered in the affirmative, she put a one-pound note in his hand. Not supposing her to be the author of such liberality, he inquired in whose name he should place it on the society's accounts. The question evidently confused her; and with some embarrassment, she asked whether it would be necessary to expose her name: the necessity of it, of course, was not insisted on; and, seemingly glad that her benevolence might escape the glare of publicity, she begged it might be accounted for as the gift of a servant; and went away, bearing in her countenance a most pleasing evidence that regret was not amongst her feelings, and leaving the individual she had entrusted with her bounty to exclaim, more from a consideration of her circumstances than of the magnitude of the gift, 'Verily, she hath cast in more than they all.'"

Staffordshire, 1818.—"The Rev. Secretary of the Tamworth Branch writes thus:—'It is not now that there is here and there a Bible on the shelf, covered with dust and cobwebs; but it is sought for, and it is read. The moral and the religious feelings of the people are improved. I can add one little anecdote, which occurred here some short time ago. A person gave me a small donation for the Society, with these remarks: 'The Bible is my source of comfort and joy. I wish others, Sir, to partake of that blessing as well as myself. I and mine are but poor; but we have been enabled, by means of this society, to obtain the Scriptures at an easy rate. These Scriptures have

taught us to be humble, industrious, and frugal. I have saved a few shillings: take them, Sir, as a small donation. This mite may, in a little degree, further the intentions of this valuable institution.'"

Southampton, 1819.—"It is a very pleasing fact, that seven of the Bibles supplied were purchased by the children of a Female Sunday-school, from the accumulation of little gratuities which they had received as rewards for good conduct, on purpose that they might be given to poor persons destitute of the holy scriptures. The money saved, and thus appropriated, was five-and-thirty shillings; and the act was spontaneous on the part of the children. So fine an example of self-denying benevolence, it is hoped, may not be without its use, both among the children of opulent families, and among persons of more advanced age in general."

VII. When the annual meeting of a Bible Association is held jointly with that of the Auxiliary (or Branch) Society, the following should be substituted as the *Eighth* Rule:—"That the Annual General Meeting of the —— Auxiliary (or Branch) Bible Society be considered the Anniversary Meeting of this Association; and that a copy of the Treasurer's account (as audited by the Committee), a Report of the proceedings of the past year, and the names of the Officers and Committee, be transmitted to the Secretaries of the said society, one month previous to such Annual Meeting."

The following extracts afford a gratifying evidence of the advantages attending those Meetings, and exemplify their beneficial effects on the different classes of the community:—

North-West London, 1815.—"An instance has occurred of a person subscribing for Bibles to be given to each of his servants; a person who, previously to the formation of this society, as he himself stated, discredited the Bible, lost no opportunity of contending against it, and would not suffer a single copy to be kept in his house; but having heard much of the great activity and zeal displayed in the formation of Bible Associations, he was induced to attend the meetings, and afterwards to search the Scriptures himself diligently; the result of which was, a deep conviction of the truth of the divine oracles, and of the fallacy of those arguments which he had formerly employed against them."

Ditto, 1818.—"At the General Meeting of the Edgeware-Road Bible Association, a poor woman, who had already subscribed for and received a Bible, and continued her subscription of a-penny per week, was so delighted at some interesting intelligence from Russia, which was read at the meeting, that she went the next morning to the collector, and said she would pay threepence per week in future." . . . . The *Percy-street* Ladies' Report states, "That a female servant, who lately attended a meeting of a Bible Association, was so deeply impressed with a sense of her duty to 'do what she could' in so good a cause, that she immediately became a free subscriber; solicited her companions to contribute also; and, having succeeded with several of them, has undertaken to collect their subscriptions."

City of London, 1816.—"Nor have the public meetings of the Associations been unproductive of benefit: they have served to awaken the slumbering zeal of some who attended them, have elicited friends to the institution, and abated the prejudices of those who had been unfriendly to Bible Societies. There is one delightful tale told, in a report from one of the Associations, of a person who went, both ignorant and careless, to the Anniversary Meeting; but retired thoughtful, and inquiring the way to heaven. From that

auspicious hour, she has been pressing forward in her religious career; to which she is an honour, by her devout and humble spirit, and by the consistency of conduct which she displays."

St. George's Association, 1815.—"A person, who had been blessed with pious parents, but had lost them at an early age, and had since forgotten their parental instructions and admonitions, living "without God in the world," was prompted by curiosity, as he passed, to step into Jones's Riding School, during the General Meeting for the formation of this Association.—At that moment, a minister was advocating the cause of your society; and addressing himself to the younger part of the audience, with such warmth as to attract his attention, he was thereby induced to hear the remaining addresses; and on leaving the place, his reflections led him to consult his long-neglected Bible: the result is, that he has become a good husband, an affectionate father, and a decidedly religious character: he is now a constant and serious attendant on the ministry of that gentleman who was, under Providence, the first instrument of awakening him from his thoughtless state; and he is also an active and zealous member of one of our sister-Associations.'

Fitzroy-Square Association, 1816.—"Soon after the last Anniversary Meeting, a labouring man called on one of the collectors, stating, that he had attended there, and had been so impressed by what he heard, that he could not be satisfied in his mind till he had given his mite towards the distribution of that *great* book (so he called it), the value of which he so well knew. The poor man then cheerfully and modestly put down his piece of five shillings and sixpence."

Daventry, 1820.—"A lady, who was on a visit in this neighbourhood at the period of your last Anniversary, attended on that very interesting occasion. When she heard the detail of the operations of your society, and of the manner in which your funds were increased and your Bibles and Testaments distributed, by the energy and assiduity of her own sex, she felt a conviction that it was her duty to 'go and do likewise.' Immediately on returning to her usual residence, a distance of thirty miles, she attempted to investigate the wants of the poor in her neighbourhood, and proposed to those, who were destitute of the holy scriptures, to become weekly subscribers. She was soon astonished and delighted to observe how easily the plan was adopted, and how gladly the proposal was generally accepted. In the space of twelve months she has circulated more than twenty-five pounds' worth of books; and has frequently declared, that the *pleasure* of the work abundantly recompensed the *labour* of it; and that it was 'more blessed to give than to receive.'"

Westminster, 1817.—"A poor man came to offer himself as a free subscriber to this Association. The meanness of his appearance astonished the collector, and he did not accept his offer. Being thus disappointed, he applied to another member, and expressed the same wish. He was asked, 'Where do you live?' He replied, 'Near Saffron-hill.'—'You had better, then, subscribe to the Association of that district.' He said, he had been induced to make this application in consequence of seeing a printed placard, announcing the annual meeting of the St. Clement Dane's Association; and he had brought a one-pound note, not in payment for a Bible, but as a free gift. Intreaties were used to induce him to change his mind, but in vain; he would not be moved from his purpose. He said he had been at sea, and could well spare it; as he had lately received some prize-money. The collector's astonishment was still more increased, when he informed him that he was a Roman Catholic. He acknowledged that the Bible was the only book that could meet the necessities of the soul, and shewed much solicitude for the more general diffusion of it."

By-Laws of the Committees of Ladies' Associations.

It has been already observed, that the public proceedings of Ladies' Bible Societies are conducted exclusively by the Committees of the Auxiliary [or Branch] Societies with which they are connected, who should always appoint a judicious and efficient Sub-Committee for this particular purpose. The form of the Annual Report, and such further remarks as appear necessary, will be found in Section V. of this chapter. When the Association is connected with a Ladies' Branch Society, the duty enjoined by the *Ninth* Rule is fulfilled by the Treasurer and Secretaries, who should present a copy of their Rules and Regulations to the next meeting of the Ladies' Branch.

3. The following are the BY-LAWS, recommended for adoption by the Committees of Ladies' Bible Associations:—

I. That the Committee meet at ——, on the ——, in every month, at —— o'clock precisely; and that as soon after that time as —— Members be present, business shall be commenced.

II. That the chair be taken by the President; in the President's absence, by one of the Vice-Presidents; in their absence, by the Treasurer; and in the absence of all these officers, the Committee shall appoint a person to the chair from among themselves.

III. That the order of proceeding shall be,

1. To read the Minutes of the preceding Meeting, and dispose of business arising therefrom.
2. To receive the Treasurer's and Secretaries' reports of the state of the funds, and of the stock of Bibles and Testaments on hand.
3. To call for a *written* report from the Collectors of each district: such reports to be taken into consideration, and, if approved, to be received, and copied into the "Report Book."
4. To receive any official communications which the Secretaries may have to make: after which, fresh propositions shall be taken into consideration.

IV. That each district, where convenient, shall have two or more members of the Committee attached to it, as Collectors.

V. That the Collectors be requested, as far as possible, to call *punctually* for the weekly subscriptions, *every week;* to solicit new subscriptions, from time to time, throughout their several districts; and to report, at the monthly meetings, such persons as they consider proper for new members of the Committee.

VI. That the Secretaries be empowered to procure Bibles and Testaments, when necesary; and report to the Committee, every month, the state of the funds, and the stock of Bibles and Testaments on hand.

VII. That the Bible Secretary stamp, or inscribe neatly, the name of this Association on the title-page of every Bible and Testament issued, and keep a regular account of all copies received and delivered.

VIII. That when any Subscriber shall have paid up the agreed price for a Bible or Testament, the Collectors of the district shall deliver to such subscriber a ticket, addressed to the Bible Secretary, specifying the description of Bible or Testament, and the amount paid; on the presentation of which the Book shall be delivered.

IX. That the Collectors of each district be requested to present a

By-Laws of the Committee.

written report to every monthly meeting of the Committee; particularly specifying,

1. The amount of all donations and *free* subscriptions received by them during the last month, with the names of all *new* contributors.
2. The amount of subscriptions for Bibles and Testaments received by them during the last month, with the names of all *new* subscribers.
3. Any information of an interesting nature, arising out of the proceedings of the Association.

X. That the Bibles and Testaments issued by this Association shall be sold at the cost prices, as specified in the annexed table:—but the Collectors are authorised, in cases of poverty, or under peculiar circumstances, to deliver copies when not less than one-half of the cost price has been paid.

	Cost the Society. s.	d.
BIBLES.		
Small Pica, with marginal references	14	0
Small Pica, without references	10	6
Long Primer . ditto	9	6
Brevier, with marginal references	11	10
Brevier, without references	7	2
Minion . . ditto	6	0
Nonpareil . ditto	4	2
Pocket, Minion Type	5	7
Pocket, Nonpareil ditto	4	6
TESTAMENTS.		
Pica . . . bound in calf	4	3
Pica . . . . . sheep	3	3
Long Primer . . calf	3	2
Long Primer . . sheep	2	2
Brevier . . . . calf	2	3
Brevier . . . . sheep	1	6
Brevier . . . . linen cloth	1	3
Pocket . . . . calf	2	1
Pocket . . . . sheep	1	6

XI. That in case the Collectors meet with any individuals whom they may consider proper objects for the grant of a Bible or Testament, the names and address of such persons shall be reported to the General Committee, and transmitted, by the Minute Secretary, to the Secretary of the Auxiliary [or Branch] Society, with a request that they may be visited, and, if found suitable objects, gratuitously supplied.

XII. That no family, after having been supplied with one Bible and one Testament, under the *cost* prices, shall be supplied with any further number of copies on the same terms, without special application to the Committee.

XIII. That a copy of the Monthly Extracts of Correspondence be regularly presented, by the Collectors, to every free Contributor of half a guinea or upwards per annum; and that they be *lent* to free contributors of smaller sums, in the proportion of one copy to every four subscribers. The regular number of copies to be provided by the Secretaries, and delivered to the Collectors at the monthly committee meetings.

XIV. That no new By-Law be made, or any existing By-Law repealed or altered, without one month's previous notice be given.

4.—OBSERVATIONS.

The subsequent remarks, in addition to those which have been offered in the corresponding divisions of the preceding Chapters, are designed to explain and illustrate the tendency of those regulations.

1. In many Associations, the following words have been added to the *Fourth* By-Law;—"And that, in all practicable cases, a matron and a younger lady shall be colleagues." As a cautionary hint, it may not be improper to observe, that *children* should not be employed as collectors of districts; nor is the author aware of such appointment having ever taken place. Experience has satisfactorily proved, that the subject may be safely left to the discretion of the Ladies themselves; and it would be difficult to point out a single Association of this description, in Great Britain, which might not be safely recommended as a model for similar institutions. In reference to this particular subject it should be stated, that the following By-Law has been adopted in many places, with considerable effect: "That every young lady who obtains six or more *free* contributors of a penny a-week, or upwards, shall have the privilege of attending the meetings of the Committee *as a Visiter*." In allusion to the practical operation of this By-Law, the Committee of the Southampton Ladies' Association, in their Third Annual Report, observe, "The Institution has been aided, in a most valuable degree, by the punctuality and perseverance of eight little girls. The plan of each of them has been, to obtain six or more free subscribers, of one penny or upwards a-week; which these juvenile collectors pay in, once a month, at the meeting of the Committee, which they attend as visitors. Their united collections, to the present time, amount to no less than 50*l.* 14*s.* 2*d.*"

11. On a strict attention to the duties enjoined by the *Fifth* By-Law, the success of the institution, humanly speaking, principally depends. The advantages of *punctuality*; the mode of application to the various classes of society; the inexpediency of accepting free contributions from persons who receive parochial aid; and the selection of suitable Ladies to fill up any vacancies in the Committee, constitute the subjects comprised by this important regulation. Under the head of "Hints to Collectors," (*Chapter* VIII. *Section* I.) such suggestions will be submitted as the nature of the case appears to require; and the following extracts will furnish an ample illustration of the practical tendency of the Rule.

North-West London, 1816.—"At the formation of the Paddington Association, an iron-foundry in the district was visited by one of the collectors, to solicit subscriptions from the workmen. On this occasion, some Irish Roman Catholics, employed in the foundry, gave him much opposition; declaring, that 'they would be glad to burn all the Bibles he would bring.' A few of the other workmen, however, were induced to subscribe

Cheerful co-operation of the Poor—Illustration of the subject.

for Bibles. The happy effects produced by these books were strikingly manifested at a subsequent period: for when the same collector visited the foundry again, after a considerable interval, the men exclaimed, on seeing him enter, 'Here comes the Bible-man! we have found the benefit of some of his Bibles; now let us *all* have Bibles.' And several of them immediately became subscribers."

Northampton Ladies', 1820.—"The poor continue to feel the least possible inconvenience from paying for the holy scriptures by weekly instalments. Your Committee refer to a proof of it, in the case of a young woman, who was unable to attend the last public distribution to receive her Bible. When the collector called on her with it, and presented it to her, she said, 'Ma'am, I do indeed consider this as a very handsome present; for it comes like a present:—having paid only the small sum of *one penny per week*, I have not felt the purchase.'"

Hackney, &c. Ladies', 1820.—"In one of my visits," a collector observes, "I called on a poor woman, to whom I proposed the question, whether she had a Bible: 'Oh, yes,' she replied; 'I have three.' Knowing that she depended for her support upon her own labour, I was about leaving her; when she said, "*May not the poor give something to the Bible Society as well as the rich?*" I replied, 'Certainly, if they wish it.' She said, 'I wish to give a little;' and brought me twopence. At first I declined taking so much; but she repeated her request, and added, 'I will continue it weekly as long as I can afford it; and if I become unable, I shall rejoice that I have given something to so good a cause.'"

Plymouth, &c. Ladies', 1820.—"A man who, on the first call, received the collector with sullen disdain, opposing her exertions by every means within the sphere of his influence, and even refusing her access to his tenants up stairs, is now become a free subscriber, and a useful auxiliary. During her absence of three or four weeks, he collected part of the district for her; and in wet weather, wishes her to sit in his shop, while he runs to gather the pence—offering his services in any way in which he can be useful."

Ditto.—"The collectors, on entering the room where a poor man and woman lived, and telling the object of their visit, were answered very cheerfully, 'It will give us great pleasure to throw in our mite to this treasury; for we love the cause.'—Observing, however, that this interesting couple were apparently sinking under the effects of disease, and that every thing in the room bore great indications of poverty, the collectors thought it right to make some inquiry into their circumstances. They thankfully acknowledged, that aid was afforded them by the parish, and occasional help from a few benevolent friends. As it is a rule of your Associations never to accept free contributions from persons receiving parochial aid, the collectors, on this information, felt themselves obliged to decline the willing offering. A few days after, a lady, who frequently visited these afflicted persons, happening to call on them, they related to her, with tears in their eyes, the sad disappointment they had experienced, in being denied the privilege of subscribing to the Bible Society; asking, if there were no way in which it might be done; adding, 'Any sacrifice we could make would be a pleasure to us, if we might be allowed to contribute.'—The print of their own well-read Bible being small, and in many parts almost obliterated, they were recommended to subscribe for another for their own use. The proposal was readily accepted: '*And then*,' said they, '*we shall have our little Bible to give to some poor creature who has none.*'"

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awakened by facts like these! The labouring classes in Great Britain have furnished the best and most conclusive answer—that of practical refutation—to arguments *they* never heard, and theories *they* could never comprehend; while they have afforded the finest illustration of the admirable remarks of Dr. Chalmers, who observes, in reference to the influence of this part of the system on their circumstances and their character,—

"It brings up their economy to a higher pitch; but it does so, not in the way which they resist, but in the way which they choose. The single circumstance of its being a *voluntary* act, forms the defence and the answer to all the clamours of an affected sympathy.—'You take from the poor.' 'No; they give.'—'You take beyond their ability.' 'Of this they are the best judges.'—'You abridge their comforts.' No; there is a comfort in the exercise of charity: there is a comfort in the act of lending a hand to a noble enterprise: there is a comfort in the contemplation of its progress: there is a comfort in rendering a service to a friend;—and when that friend is the SAVIOUR, and that service the circulation of the message he left behind him, it is a comfort which many of the poor are ambitious to share in. Leave them to judge of their comfort; and if, in point of fact, they do give their penny a-week to a Bible Society, it just speaks them to have more comfort in this way of spending it, than in any other which occurs to them."

The following remarks of the *Boston* Committee, in their Report for 1820, are so appropriate and judicious, that no apology is requisite for their introduction:—

"The practical good which arises to the poor from Bible Associations, must be convincingly evident to every mind, that at all reflects seriously and dispassionately on the subject. It is only by personally visiting their dwellings, and actually investigating their moral wants, that the deficiency of the Scriptures can be ascertained. To affirm, as many worthy persons do, that the poor of this island may procure Bibles, if they choose to make a proper application for them to the benevolent and well-disposed, is indeed to state a most delightful truth: but matter of fact has indisputably proved, that this mode of distributing the sacred volume does not fully meet the exigencies of the case; it does not accord with the general views, and habits, and dispositions of the poor. Friendly visits must be paid them; their individual wants must be kindly inquired into; their prejudices and aversions must, if possible, be softened and conciliated; their ignorance must be calmly and judiciously reasoned with; and the necessity and importance of possessing a copy of the word of life must be pointed out to them, and pressed home upon their hearts with an earnest and affectionate solicitude. "To be roused to the heights of mercy," says an eloquent divine, "you should have personal experience of what passes around you: one single morning devoted to explore the recesses of misery would preach to you through life." Wherever the object of Bible Associations has been thus recommended to the attention of the poor, and pursued with diligence and punctuality, the most beneficial effects have uniformly ensued."

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The Committee of the *Liverpool* Ladies' Society observe,—"There may, to a casual observer, be an appearance of oppression, in requiring from a labourer the full price of a Bible; and were it demanded at once, it might possibly be felt by the individual as such: but, on their own reiterated testimony, 'a penny a-week is never missed;' and, in the end, the Bible is received almost as a gift, though, as the fruit of their own industry, they are more pleased than if it were gratuitously presented. Out of 9755 Bibles and Testaments issued by this society, considerably more than one-half have been sold at the cost prices."

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VII. The disadvantages attendant on the *gratuitous* distribution of Bibles and Testaments, as a general practice, have been repeatedly alluded to in the preceding pages; but as cases may sometimes occur to justify this mode of supply, it is the object of the *Eleventh* By-Law to provide the means for carrying it into effect. The difficulties which opposed themselves to any specific arrangement, and the peculiar delicacy required to guard against fraud on the one hand, and the neglect of a positive duty on the other, were perceived at an early period; and the plan of proceeding recommended in the By-Law, and adopted by Ladies' Associations universally, has proved the most effectual expedient hitherto devised. The necessity of gratuitous grants, especially in places where the "*Loan Fund*" is adopted (*See Chapter* VIII. *Section* II.),

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But this benevolent principle acquires a higher value, when we behold its influence extending beyond the limits of the domestic circle.—The Committee of the *Sherborne* Ladies' Association report:—

"A poor youth, about eighteen years of age, called on one of your secretaries for two Testaments. On being asked if he had not some months past obtained a Bible for himself, he replied, "Yes; I do not now buy for myself: there is a poor lad living near me without a Bible, and I want him to read it, because it has done me so much good: the other I want to carry to an old woman, who has long been confined to her bed, in order that I may read to her; and I assure you, there is no Bible in the room, and I wish to leave it there, for the good of all her neighbours who visit her."

And the exemplary Committee of the *Colchester and East-Essex* Auxiliary Society place this subject in a new and interesting point of view, by stating, that, "among the recent issues, have been twelve

* Speech of the Rev. John Cawood at the Worcester Meeting, 1815.

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"It is a touching and a beautiful sight, and by no means unfrequent, when the collectors are called on to receive from the pittance of age and infirmity the weekly penny for the purchase of a Bible or a Testament, designed to be the legacy of affection to the lisping grandchild. The poor *have* feelings; and rightly do they seek to embalm and perpetuate their memories, by selecting such a memorial."

But this benevolent principle acquires a higher value, when we behold its influence extending beyond the limits of the domestic circle.—The Committee of the *Sherborne* Ladies' Association report:—

"A poor youth, about eighteen years of age, called on one of your secretaries for two Testaments. On being asked if he had not some months past obtained a Bible for himself, he replied, "Yes; I do not now buy for myself: there is a poor lad living near me without a Bible, and I want him to read it, because it has done me so much good: the other I want to carry to an old woman, who has long been confined to her bed, in order that I may read to her; and I assure you, there is no Bible in the room, and I wish to leave it there, for the good of all her neighbours who visit her."

And the exemplary Committee of the *Colchester and East-Essex* Auxiliary Society place this subject in a new and interesting point of view, by stating, that, "among the recent issues, have been twelve

* Speech of the Rev. John Cawood at the Worcester Meeting, 1813.

Bibles, at the reduced price, to the proprietor of the principal inn in this town, to be placed in the sleeping-rooms, for the use of those who have occasion to take up a temporary residence there. Your Committee would recommend the practice to be adopted as generally as possible; and sincerely hope the good intentions of those who have commenced it will be fully realized."

IX. The following extracts, in addition to the remarks submitted in Chap. I. Section VIII., will exemplify the beneficial effects resulting from the provisions of the *Thirteenth* By-Law:

Westminster, 1818.—"The plan recently adopted, of printing 'Monthly Extracts,' from the correspondence of the Parent Society, has been highly beneficial, in exciting new and zealous exertions in the several departments of the society. With these extracts in his hand, every contributor to the Society can trace its increasing progress and success, in opening the treasures of Divine Wisdom to regions hitherto unsupplied with the word of life."

Blackheath, 1818.—"The occasional circulation of the 'Monthly Extracts' among persons who knew but little of the extensive labours of the Bible Society, has made the most salutary impression. It has, in many cases, silenced objections, and brought new friends to the cause in which that Society and its Auxiliaries are engaged."

Plymouth Ladies', 1820.—"Your Committee have, during the past year, judged it expedient to give increased circulation to those very interesting documents, the '*Monthly Extracts of Correspondence:*' having been satisfied of their tendency to excite and maintain a powerful interest in the operations of the Parent Society. By rich and poor they are perused with equal interest. In most of the poorer districts they are regularly circulated; and the eagerness with which they are inquired for, evinces that poverty may restrain the hand, but cannot chill the heart."

Specimens of all the Books and Reports referred to in the By-Laws, will be found in one connected series in Section V. of this Chapter, with such remarks and explanations as may be necessary to illustrate their practical tendency.

SECTION IV.

ON THE MODE OF ESTABLISHING AND ORGANIZING LADIES' BIBLE ASSOCIATIONS.

1. In places where Auxiliary or Branch Societies are established and properly organized, the formation of Associations generally originates with their Committees: and it will be recollected, that their By-Laws (*Chap.* II. *Sect.* III.) are framed with particular reference to this subject. The mode of proceeding, in regard to Associations conducted by Gentlemen, has been explicitly detailed in Chap. III. Sect. IV.; and the members of a District Committee will find no difficulty in accommodating the directions there given to the peculiar circumstances of a Ladies' Society. When the

measure arises spontaneously with any Lady, the first proceeding, after forming a provisional committee of three or more Ladies, should be, to request the assistance of the nearest Auxiliary or Branch Committee, who immediately depute a judicious Sub-Committee,—if regular District Committees be not already appointed,—to meet the Ladies, and afford them every requisite aid in carrying the design into effect. It is the duty of those gentlemen to make the necessary arrangements for the general meeting; to conduct the proceedings of such meeting; and to relieve the Ladies of all that part of the business which involves publicity and active exertion.

2. Such is the facility with which a Ladies' Bible Association may be established, and the readiness of the female sex to co-operate in this work of benevolence, that the author has frequently found a few hours sufficient for the purpose. After introducing the subject at the annual meeting of an Auxiliary or Branch Society, and briefly explaining the nature and design of the proposed institution, accompanied with a sketch of the results of similar societies, a meeting of Ladies has been appointed for the same evening, or the following day, when the Association has been regularly formed, and the Committee organised. Whether this plan, or the more deliberate and methodical mode alluded to in the preceding paragraph, be adopted, the following order of proceedings will be found to embrace the several heads of business to be transacted.—The entries in *italics* will be considered as manuscript.

3. ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS AT THE FORMATION OF A LADIES' BIBLE ASSOCIATION.

Aylesbury, 18*th September*, 1817.

At a Meeting convened for the purpose of establishing a LADIES' BIBLE ASSOCIATION for *Aylesbury* and its vicinity;—

Sir James Macintosh, Bart. in the Chair.

A. B. having explained the nature and design of the proposed society, and detailed the beneficial effects of similar institutions in other places, the following Resolutions were unanimously adopted; viz.

No. 1. Moved by *C. D.*; seconded by *E. F.*

"That a Society be now formed, to be called 'The *Aylesbury* Ladies' Bible Association;' of which the following shall be the Rules and Regulations." (*See Rules, Section* III.)

No. 2. Moved by *G. H.*; seconded by *I. K.*

"That the following be the Officers of this Association; viz.

Lady Nugent.....Patroness.
Lady Macintosh.....President.

Order of Proceedings at the Formation of an Association.

Vice-Presidents:
Mrs. A. } *Mrs. C.*
Mrs. B. } *Miss D.*

Mrs. E....Treasurer.

Miss B. A......
Miss D. C...... } Secretaries.
Mrs. F. E......

" And that the following Ladies be members of the COMMITTEE, with power to add to their number, and to obtain such further patronage as they may deem suitable;" viz.

[*Here follow the names of the Ladies.*]

No. 3. Moved by *L. M.*; seconded by *N. O.*

" That the following be the By-LAWS of the Committee of this Association." (*See By-Laws, Section* III.)

No. 4. Moved by *P. Q.*; seconded by *R. S.*

" That the Secretaries be authorised to get *two hundred* copies of the Rules and By-Laws, and *five hundred* copies of the Form of the Monthly Reports, printed: and to procure the requisite account-books, papers, and collecting-bags, for the use of the Association; and that they send, as soon as possible, to the Collectors of each district,

Six copies of the Rules and By-Laws.
A Visiting Book,
A Collecting Book, } properly marked and headed.
A Collecting Bag, marked with the number of the district.
A Form of the Monthly Report.
Twenty Bible Subscribers' Cards.
Twenty Transfer Tickets;
And a supply of printed Papers.

On the receipt of which, the several District Committees are requested to commence their inquiries."

(*For Specimens of the Books, Papers, &c. alluded to in this resolution, see Sect.* V.)

No. 5. Moved by *T. U.*; seconded by *W. X.*

" That the Committee meet at *the National School-Room*, on *next Monday*, the *22d instant*, at *eleven* o'clock precisely, in order to divide the town and neighbourhood into convenient districts, and appoint one or more members to each as collectors. And that such meeting be open to any other Ladies who may feel disposed to join the Committee."

No. 6. Moved by *Y. Z.*; seconded by *A. B.*

" That the cordial thanks of this meeting be presented to *A. B.*, for the favor of *his* company and assistance on this occasion."

No. 7. Moved by *C. D.*; seconded by *E. F.*

" That the thanks of this meeting be presented to the Chairman, for his able and obliging conduct in the Chair."

The Chairman having acknowledged the vote of thanks, adjourned the meeting.

4. OBSERVATIONS.

In addition to the remarks on this branch of the subject, in the corresponding divisions of the preceding Chapters, the following hints may be found useful:—

A clear Explanation of the System should be given.

I. The business should be opened by a Gentleman who is perfectly acquainted with the subject, and competent to explain the nature and design of the proposed institution. Many benevolent Ladies are deterred from offering their services on these occasions, under an apprehension that the duties are arduous, and the time required to fulfil them more than they can spare,—who would cheerfully unite if they understood the simple nature of those duties, and how small the sacrifice of time really is. It is therefore of importance that this, and every other difficulty, should be obviated, and any doubts satisfactorily removed. As the meeting may be considered of a select description, an opportunity is afforded for friendly discussion; and the Ladies should be invited to make any inquiries that may lead to a more perfect knowledge of the system.

II. The Gentleman who moves the *First* Resolution, should take a concise but clear review of the object and intention of each particular regulation. It is vain to hope, that rules which are not fully understood will be strictly obeyed: and as this code contains no provision which has not been found necessary, every requisite explanation of their practical tendency and effects should be given in this stage of the proceedings.

III. If suitable Ladies have not previously signified their consent to accept the honorary offices of Patroness, President, &c., the *Second* Resolution may be so expressed as to convey an invitation to those who are selected; or the choice may be left to the future decision of the Committee, and the word "further," at the close of the minute, be omitted. In the appointment of Treasurer and Secretaries, the remarks submitted in the preceding chapters may afford some useful suggestions.

It should be observed, that in Associations connected with a Ladies' Branch Society, no honorary officers but *Presidents* are elected; the List of Patronage being considered applicable to all the united Associations.

IV. The preceding observation, No. II., is equally applicable to the gentleman who moves the *Third* Resolution. As it is the peculiar property of the By-Laws, to point out the manner in which the Rules of the Society shall be carried into effect, they cannot be too clearly illustrated. For this purpose, specimens of the various books, papers, &c., should be exhibited, and their several uses explained; and every apparent difficulty should be met by a clear and explicit statement of the mode of proceeding adopted in other places. If there be not sufficient time to enter into those important and highly necessary details, the discussion of the third and fourth Resolutions may be deferred to the first meeting of the Committee. It will, however, be most expedient to adopt them at this primary meeting, not only to enable the Secretaries to make the necessary arrangements without delay, but to give the ladies present a clear and uninterrupted view of the whole subject.

V. It will be found highly conducive to the interests of the Asso-

ciation, if the gentlemen who take the lead in its establishment meet the *Treasurer* and *Secretaries* immediately after the meeting, in order to give them such hints and instructions, relative to their respective duties, as may appear necessary. At this interview, if not previously arranged, the Secretaries may select their several departments, and adopt measures for complying with the provisions of the *Fourth* Resolution, which should be carried into effect with the least possible delay.

VI. The time appointed for the first meeting of the Committee, according to the *Fifth* Resolution, will generally depend on the convenience of the gentlemen who attend on behalf of the Parent or Auxiliary Society, and whose presence will be found highly beneficial, until the Association is completely organized. It will save considerable time, if the Secretaries, assisted by gentlemen who possess local information, prepare a list of suitable districts before the first meeting of the Committee, when any requisite alteration may be easily made. The Minute Secretary should send an official notice to every member; and the company of any other ladies who may feel disposed to join the Committee should be solicited. The Cash and Bible Secretaries should see that a suitable place is engaged for the Committee Meeting.

5. The following transcript of the Proceedings at the First Committee Meeting of a Bible Association, with the observations subjoined, will convey a clear idea of the mode of organization:—

"At the First Meeting of the Committee, held at the National School Room, 22d September, 1817;—

PRESENT,

Mrs. *H.*, President, in the Chair.
Messrs. *A. B.*, *C. D.*, and *E. F.*, Visitors;
and the following Members of the Committee.
(*Here follow the Names.*)

The Resolutions of the General Meeting having been read,—

1. RESOLVED, That the duties of the Secretaries be thus defined:—
Miss *B. A.* to be *Minute Secretary.*
Miss *D. C.* ... *Cash* Dº.
Mrs. *E. F.* ... *Bible* Dº.
and that the Minute Secretary furnish her Colleagues and the Treasurer with proper Books and Papers.

2. That the following Ladies be added to the Committee; viz.—
(*Here the Names and Address of those who have consented to act, are inserted.*)

3. That the following Ladies be invited to join this Committee by the Ladies respectively annexed to their names; viz.—
Miss *A. R.* . . . . . by Miss *A.*
Miss *B.* . . . . . by Mrs. *F.*
Mrs. *N.* . . . . . by Miss *G.*
(*Here follow the Names of other Ladies proposed and approved.*)

Observations on the Minutes of the Committee.

4. That the town and neighbourhood be divided into the following twenty-five districts; viz.—

District No. 1.	Broad Street and Crown Court	42	houses.
... ... 2.	Eagle Street and Fort Lane	50	D°.
... ... 3.	School-house Yard and Courts	38	D°.
... ... 4.	North side of High Street, to Mr. Brown's inclusive	49	D°.

(*Here follows a specification of the remaining Districts.*)

5. That the following be the appointment of the members of the Committee as Collectors; viz.—

District N°. 1. Mrs. *A.* and Miss *B.*
... ... 2. Miss *C.* and Miss *D.*
... ... 3. Mrs. *E.*, Miss *F.*, and Miss *G. H.*
... ... 4. Mrs. *I. K.* and Miss *L. M.*

(*Here follow the remaining appointments.*)

6. The Secretaries produced the various Books, Papers, &c., ordered by the Fourth Resolution of the General Meeting: and a specification of the respective districts, with the names of the Collectors, having been regularly inserted in the Visiting and Collecting Books, they were delivered accordingly.

7. RESOLVED, That the Collectors be requested to commence their visits, in their respective districts, on next Monday, the 25th instant.

Read over the Minutes, and adjourned."

6.—OBSERVATIONS.

1. It has been already remarked, that no appointment in a Bible Society involves more important considerations than that of the Secretaries; and although this office, in reference to a Ladies' Association, is of a more private nature, much of the welfare and success of the institution depends on the manner in which the duties are discharged. This subject will be treated of more at large in Chap. VIII. Sect. I.; where such suggestions will be submitted as may render the mode of proceeding perfectly intelligible.

II. In the selection of suitable Ladies to be admitted members of the Committee, it is evident that caution and delicacy are required. No lady should be invited who has not been proposed and seconded by two members to whom she is personally known. The character of Ladies' Societies, hitherto, has stood deservedly high; and it is confidently hoped, that the same prudence and discretion which have secured to them the respect and admiration of the public, will continue to mark their proceedings, and extend their influence.

III. The inexpediency of large districts has been strongly adverted to in Chap. III. (*Sect.* II., *Third Division*), and the remarks there offered apply with increased force to Ladies' Associations. A district of *fifty* houses will be found sufficiently large; and there are few places wherein a sufficient number of benevolent Ladies cannot be found, to justify an arrangement on this basis.

IV. The *Fifth* Minute of the Committee is in accordance with the Fourth By-Law. If *three* collectors can be appointed to each district, it is the more desirable; as illness, or other unavoidable

impediments, may occasionally prevent the attendance of one of the ladies; and in all practicable cases, the weekly visits should be paid by two colleagues. The Lady whose name stands first on the minute of appointment, takes charge of the Books, &c.

v. It will be perceived by the *Sixth* Minute, that the duties prescribed in the Fourth Resolution of the General Meeting were fulfilled at the First Committee Meeting. This is extremely desirable on every account, but particularly as it affords an opportunity to the gentlemen who attend, to give any requisite explanation to the Collectors, at the precise time when it is most likely to be understood and remembered. The Books, &c. should be delivered in regular order by the Secretaries, beginning with the collectors of District No. 1; and those printed papers should be selected which appear best adapted to the circumstances of the particular district. Thus the Papers No. I. III. V. VI. and VII. of the Appendix are designed for the higher and middle ranks of society, and No. VIII. IX. X. XI. and XII. for the labouring classes. To the latter, the "Monthly Extracts," "Southwark Sheet of Facts," or any similar publication, may be beneficially added; as no papers are so acceptable to the poor as those which detail the moral effects of the institution. Many advantages have resulted from specifying a fixed day for commencing, in all the districts, those interesting weekly visits; which have been attended with incalculable benefit wherever they have been steadily and systematically continued.

*** The Specimen of the "Fair Minute Book," Sect. V., will exhibit the Minutes of the *Second* Committee Meeting, and supersede the necessity of any further observation on this part of the subject.

SECTION V.

FORMS OF THE BOOKS AND PAPERS, &c. AND THE MODE OF KEEPING THE ACCOUNTS.

*** *In all the Specimens contained in this Section, the entries in Italics are to be considered as Manuscript.*

1. Every book, paper, &c. of which a specimen is here given, is recommended as having borne the test of experience; and the author has strenuously endeavoured to render the system, in all its parts, as simple as possible; while a check has been provided, by which every inaccuracy is promptly detected and corrected. In the preparation of these books, *economy* has been diligently studied: this is a subject which should never be lost sight of in the concerns of benevolent institutions, but especially in those of the Bible Society. The account-books are calculated to last for six or seven years;

and as all those required by an Association may be procured for two or three pounds, the *annual* expense is only a few shillings.

The books, from which the following specimens are taken, are those of an Association connected with a LADIES' BRANCH SOCIETY. But the observations prefixed to each book and paper, and the notes at the foot of every specimen, where necessary, will render them equally applicable to *all* Bible Associations, whether conducted by Ladies or Gentlemen. The Association in question having adopted the plan of the Loan-Fund, and also that of Public Distributions, the specimens will be found to allude to both. While considerable repetition is thus avoided, the Committees which do not adopt those parts of the system will find that the passages relating to them may be omitted, without any interruption of the general detail: where it was thought likely that any difficulty would arise, a note has been subjoined. The various specimens are inserted as nearly as possible in the order in which they will be required by the Collectors, Secretaries, and Treasurer; and the explanatory observations are prefixed to each.

To those who are unacquainted with the system, many of the following remarks and suggestions may appear superfluous or unnecessarily minute: but those who have taken an active part in the proceedings of Bible Associations, especially at their commencement, will acknowledge that they are requisite; andthat by attending to them, much valuable time will be saved, and increased facility given to the operations of the Society. It will be observed, that *all* the books and papers are so constructed as to answer for *any* Bible Association, the name of which should be inserted by the person who fills up the other blanks. A very considerable annual expense is thus saved; as the printer's charge, for any specified number of copies, is proportionally less according to the number originally struck off.

*** *The Facts and Observations contained in the following Specimens are transcribed from the Reports of the Ladies' Associations of Plymouth, Liverpool, and Manchester, except where it is otherwise expressed.*

2. The Books, Papers, &c. used by the COLLECTORS are,

1. The Visiting Book.
2. - - Collecting Book.
3. - - Collector's Bag.
4. - - Committee Card.
5. - - Bible Subscribers' Cards.
6. The Subscribers' TranferTickets.
7. - - Loan Tickets.
8. - - Delivery Tickets.
9. - - Public Distribution Tickets.
10. - - Form of the Monthly Report.

These will now be separately considered, in the order here specified.

NO. I.—THE VISITING BOOK.

I. This book is of the size called "large post octavo," of stout quality, and covered with strong blue paper: it consists of eight leaves, or double folios, and is ruled, throughout, with transverse lines in *red* ink. As it contains the original entries of those particulars which are subsequently transcribed into the Collecting Book, and constitutes the basis of all the accounts and records of the society, care should be taken that the different heads are correctly noted and legibly written.

II. The manuscript part of the FIRST SPECIMEN is filled in by the Secretaries, before the book is delivered to the collectors of the district; with the exception of that portion which comes under the head, "When visited, and what part." The name of the book, and the words "District," and "No." are printed on the cover, and the Secretary fills in the figures which denote the latter. The annexed Specimen belongs to District No. 2, and is therefore indorsed thus:—

"VISITING BOOK.
DISTRICT No. 2. "

III. If the collectors find that the description of their district is not sufficiently accurate, or that any street, lane, court, &c. has been overlooked, they should report the inaccuracy to the Minute Secretary, and make the requisite correction in their Visiting and Collecting Books. When a collector resigns her office, a line should be drawn through her name, and that of her successor be inserted after the names of her colleagues.

IV. In reference to the SECOND SPECIMEN, it is only necessary to observe, that the Visiting Book is used at the commencement of a Bible Association, and at every re-canvas of the district: it has frequently been found a very useful register of valuable information relative to the state of the labouring classes, and many benevolent institutions have derived their origin from these little records.

V. The mode of proceeding when a new Visiting or Collecting Book is required, will be explained in the "Hints to Collectors," (*Chap.* VIII. *Sect.* I.) The old book should be carefully preserved, either by the Secretaries of the Association, or by the Depositary of the Ladies' Branch Society.

If the collectors paste a copy of the "Specimen of the Types" (*See Appendix, No.* IV.) on the inside of the cover at the end of the "Visiting Book," it will be found useful in directing the choice of many of the Subscribers.

FIRST SPECIMEN
OF THE
Visiting Book.

[To occupy the first double folio, on opening the Book.]

This District comprises

Abbey House, and the Three Cottages in the Lane.
William Street.
Plough Court, and Back Alley.
Cross Lane.

When visited, and what part.

1819.

July 5.—*Abbey House and Cottages, William Street, Plough Court to No.* 6, *and Cross Lane to No.* 5.

12.—*Remainder of Cross Lane.*

Collectors.

Mrs. Smith.
Miss Jane Brown.
Miss Thompson.

SYSTEM,
PUNCTUALITY,
PERSEVERANCE.

*** The Collectors will observe, in entering Donations and Subscriptions, that

D. . . . denotes ... Donation.
A. . . . —— ... Annual.
Q. . . . —— ... Quarterly.
M. . . . —— ... Monthly.
W. . . —— ... Weekly.

B. . . . —— ... Bible.
T. . . . —— ... Testament.

SECOND SPECIMEN
OF THE
Visiting Book.

[To occupy the six double ruled folios.]

NAME.	RESIDENCE.	No. in Family.	No. who can read.	If possessing a Bible or Testament.	Sort and Amount of Contribution.	Whether Free, or for Bible or Testament.	OBSERVATIONS.
Captain Owen *	*Abbey House*	. .	. .	. .	*A.* 2*l.* 2*s.*	*Free*	*Very friendly to the cause.*
Mr. Daniel Goss ...	*No.* 1, *William Street*	. .	. .	. .	*Q.* 4*s.*	*Free*	†*Daughter willing to join the Committee.*
Henry Sampson	2, *ditto*	3	2	*Has B.*	. . .	. . .	*Cannot afford to subscribe. Object for Sick-poor Society.*
Mary Cox	3, *ditto*	6	4	*No B.*	*W.* 6*d.*	*Bible*	*In very bad health, and anxious for a Bible.*
Samuel Henley	4, *ditto*	2	2	*No B.*	. . .	. . .	*Unfriendly to the Bible Society.*
Susan Ladd	5, *ditto*	4	3	*Has B.*	*W.* 1*d.*	*Testament*	*Wishes to get her boy into the Charity School.*
Miss Jane Walters	6, *ditto*	. .	. .	. .	*M.* 6*d.*	*Free*	†*Willing to join the Committee.*
James Vokins	7, *ditto*	5	3	*Has B.*	. . .	. . .	*Will not believe the money is properly applied.* / *(Supply him with "Brief View," &c.)*
Charles Cramp	8, *ditto*	4	4	*Has B.*	. . .	. . .	*Mind not made up: call again.*
Mary Forster	9, *ditto*	. .	. .	. .	. . .	. . .	*Not at home. Call again.*
William Hatton ...	10, *ditto*	. .	. .	*Has B.*	*Q.* 1*s.* 6*d.*	*Free*	
Miss Eliza Bacon ..	11, *ditto*	. .	. .	. .	*D.* 10*s.*	*Free*	*Promises to afford further aid.*
Thomas Cooper	12, *ditto*	2	2	*Has B.*	. . .	. . .	*Subscribes to a neighbouring Association.*
John Heel	13, *ditto*	3	3	*Has B.*	*W.* 4*d.*	*Free*	
Martha Berry	*No.* 1, *Plough Court*	4	3	*No B.*	*W.* 2*d.*	*Bible*	*Wishes her boy to be recommended to a Sunday School.*
Charlotte Butler ...	2, *ditto*	5	2	*No B.*	*W.* 1*d.*	*Bible*	*D°. girl D°. D°.*
Mary Candler	3, *ditto*	7	5	*No B.*	. . .	. . .	*A widow, very poor, recommended to Committee for a Loan Testament.*
Elizabeth Day	4, *ditto*	5	3	*Has B.*	*W.* 1*d.*	*Testament*	*Wants the Testament for child.*
Edward Hodgson ..	5, *ditto*	4	3	*Has B.*	*W.* 1*d.*	*Free*	*Sick child.*
John Buck	6, *ditto*	3	3	*Has B.*	*W.* 2*d.*	*Free*	
George Johnson	*No.* 1, *Cross Lane*	4	4	*No B.*	*Paid* 5*s.* 6*d.*	*Bible*	*Will continue his subscription occasionally.*
Richard Jeffery	2. *ditto*	3	3	*Has B.*	*M.* 4*d.*	*Free*	

* In an Association conducted by Gentlemen, it is probable this individual would be solicited to join the Committee.

† It will readily be perceived that these two "Observations" are exclusively applicable to a Ladies' Committee.

☞ It should be understood that this Specimen is a transcript of two opposite pages, the double line being the division.

Observations on the COLLECTING BOOK.

NO. II.—COLLECTING BOOK.

I. This book differs from No. I. only in the *mode* of ruling. It is a register of all the pecuniary transactions of the district, and supplies the information which is subsequently condensed in the Collector's Monthly Report. The manuscript part of the FIRST SPECIMEN is *wholly* filled in by the Secretaries before the book is delivered to the collectors, and the cover is inscribed with the No. of the district.

By having the spaces for the Committee-days left sufficiently wide, and inserting the figures close to the line, the table may answer for two or three years; but the Secretaries should fill in the proper dates immediately after every Annual Meeting.—*See Observations on Committee Cards, No.* IV. *of this Division.*

The Observations III. and V. on No. I. are equally applicable here.

II. The SECOND SPECIMEN requires more particular consideration.

The Collecting Book is used every week; and MONDAY has been invariably found the best collecting day, as being that which is the most agreeable to the subscribers. As it would be impossible, without the knowledge of the precise time when an Association was established, to have the "*Days for collecting the Subscriptions*" printed in the book, those dates are inserted by the Secretaries, beginning with the first Monday after the collectors have received their books and papers. This can be done with great ease from the "Bible Subscriber's Card."—(*See No.* V. *of this Division.*)

III. The Nos. in the first column should be continued regularly: thus, the first No. in folio 2 will be 20. When a new Collecting Book is required, the collectors should first copy into it the No. and name, &c. of every subscriber who has not discontinued; inserting against the names of the Bible Subscribers, and in the column headed "Amount brought forward," the precise sums they have respectively paid: this being done, the next new subscriber will be entered as the No. following the highest in the old Collecting Book.

IV. As *every* Ticket for the delivery of a Bible or Testament passes through the hands of the collectors who received the subscriptions (by which means the individual interest is preserved, and any error immediately corrected), the *last* column is easily filled. Collectors will find it the better mode to make this entry *before* they deliver the Ticket to the subscriber. It will be observed that the Subscriber, No. 3, being destitute of the holy scriptures, and extremely anxious to procure a Bible, paid up the cost price. As ill health (*see Visiting Book*) precluded her attending a public distribution, she was immediately supplied. (*See Specimen of Delivery Ticket, No.* VIII. *of this Division*).

V. No. 6 a free contributor, and No. 11 a subscriber for a Testament, having removed from the district, their cases will illustrate the advantages of Transfer Tickets. (*See Specimens, No.* VI.)

VI. No. 9 and No. 14 were supplied at the second public distribution (*see Chap.* VIII. *Section* III.) before either had paid the *cost* price, but were regularly called on by the collectors subsequently, until it was completed. In an Association which had not adopted this plan, they would have been supplied in the same manner as the subscriber No. 3.

VII. It will be found to save considerable time, as well as to lessen

the risk of inaccuracy, if all subscribers who continue such *after* having been supplied, be immediately entered as *free* contributors, and reported as such: thus it will be perceived that No. 3, after obtaining her Bible, became a *free* contributor, and is accordingly entered again as such, No. 16. Without this second entry, and the insertion of her name as a *new* subscriber in the Collector's Monthly Report, the Secretary's Books would be incorrect. It is also to be observed, that the name of every individual subscribing for a second Bible or Testament, after having received one copy, should be again entered as that of a *new* subscriber, and reported as such. The same care is necessary with respect to every additional copy subscribed for.

VIII. From the preceding remarks it will be evident, that too much care cannot be taken by the collectors to have their entries regularly and correctly made. On a strict attention to this, depends the accuracy of their *Monthly Reports*; and on the regularity of *these* documents the correctness of the Secretary's Books and all the subordinate details is dependent. To insure this order, as well as to correct any inadvertence, it is strongly recommended to the Collectors and Secretaries of Associations, to meet on a fixed day *Quarterly* (suppose one hour previous to the regular Committee meeting in January, April, July, and October), for the purpose of calling over their Collecting Books with the lists of "Free Contributors" and "Bible Subscribers," while the Minute Secretary attends with the file of Collector's Reports. Any error will thus be detected, and one uniform plan of proceeding be preserved. When the books have been called over and checked, the following entry should be made after the last No. in each Collecting Book, and in the Cash and Bible Books; viz.

Called over ——— of ——— 182—.
A. B. . . . Minute Secretary.
C. D. . . . Cash Secretary.
E. F. . . . Bible Secretary.

IX. It will be observed that a space is left at the bottom of every folio, for the purpose of adding up and inserting the weekly receipts. This is found useful as a check.

X. Some collectors enter the names of their free contributors in one folio, and those of their Bible subscribers in another; but this plan is attended with inconvenience, as occasioning trouble and loss of time in the weekly visits. Most of these collectors, finding they frequently passed by a subscriber, have reverted to the former mode, as here detailed.

XI. The list which constitutes the THIRD SPECIMEN will save considerable trouble to the collectors, and be very useful for reference. In order to report the total number of subscribers since the establishment of the Association, it is only necessary to state the No. of the last entry in the *general* list; and by subtracting from it the No. of those who have discontinued, the *present* number of subscribers is instantly ascertained. The *time* of discontinuance should always be stated in the Collector's Monthly Report.

XII. The FOURTH SPECIMEN illustrates the method of keeping the account of all Testaments *lent* in the district. This subject will be distinctly considered in Chap. VIII. Section II.

FIRST SPECIMEN
OF
The Collecting Book.

[To occupy the first double folio, on opening the Book.]

This District comprises

Abbey House, and the Three Cottages in the Lane.
William Street.
Plough Court, and Back Alley.
Cross Lane.

The Committee meet on the *Second Friday* in every Month, at *Eleven* o'Clock precisely, at *the Council Chamber, in the Guildhall.*

The Committee Days for the ensuing Twelve Months will be

Month.	Day.	Month.	Day.	Month.	Day.	Month.	Day.
July	9	*October* . .	8	*January* . .	14	*April*	14
August . .	13	*November* .	12	*February* .	11	*May* . . .	12
September .	10	*December* .	10	*March* . .	10	*June* . . .	9

Collectors.

Mrs. Smith.
Miss Jane Brown.
Miss Thompson.

SYSTEM,
PUNCTUALITY,
PERSEVERANCE.

*** The Collectors will observe, in entering Donations and Subscriptions, that

D. ... denotes ... Donations. | W.... denotes ... Weekly.
A. ... ——— ... Annual.
Q. ... ——— ... Quarterly. | B. ... ——— ... Bible.
M.... ——— .... Monthly. | T. ... ——— ... Testament.

The following suggestions will be found useful to Collectors:—

1. To collect regularly every MONDAY, and, if possible, at the same hour.
2. To call occasionally (at their discretion) on those who have hitherto declined subscribing.
3. To solicit the subscriptions of Servants, ONLY by permission of their Mistresses.
4. To endeavour, in all cases where it can be afforded, to obtain the COST price for Bibles and Testaments: they are then much cheaper than they could be procured from Booksellers.
5. To report to the Committee, suitable persons for Collectors and Visitors.
6. Always to collect first at home.
7. To request the Pawnbrokers in the District not to receive Bibles in pledge; and solicit their co-operation.
8. Always remember that the great and only object of Bible Associations is, to encourage the Labouring Classes to assist first in SUPPLYING THEMSELVES, and then THE WHOLE WORLD with the holy scriptures.

Second Specimen of

SECOND
OF
Collecting

[To occupy the Six

No.	Began to subscribe. 1819.	Name.	Residence.	Whether Free or for B. or T.	Sort and Amount of Contrib.	Amount brought forwards £.	s.	d.
1.	*July* 5.	*Captain Owen*	*Abbey House*.....	*Free*	*A.* 2*l.* 2*s.*			
2.	.....	*Daniel Goss*	*No.* 1, *William Street*	*Free*	*Q.* 4*s.*			
3.	.....	*Mary Cox*.....	3, *Ditto*	*B.*	*W.* 6*d.*			
4.	.....	*Susan Ladd*.....	5, *Ditto*	*T.*	*W.* 1*d.*			
5.	.....	*Henry Walters* ...	6, *Ditto*	*Free*	*M.* 6*d.*			
6.	.....	*William Hatton* ..	10, *Ditto*	*Free*	*Q.* 1*s.* 6*d.*			
7.	.....	*Eliza Bacon*.....	11, *Ditto*	*Free*	*D.* 10*s.*			
8.	.....	*John Heel*	13, *Ditto*	*Free*	*W.* 4*d.*			
9.	.....	*Martha Berry*	*No.* 1, *Plough Court*..	*B.*	*W.* 2*d.*			
10.	.....	*Charlotte Butler* ..	2, *Ditto*	*B.*	*W.* 1*d.*			
11.	—12.	*Thomas Day*	4, *Ditto*	*T.*	*W.* 1*d.*			
12.	.....	*Edward Hodgson*..	5, *Ditto*	*Free*	*W.* 1*d.*			
13.	.....	*John Buck*	6, *Ditto*	*Free*	*W.* 2*d.*			
14.	.....	*George Johnson* ...	*No.* 1, *Cross Lane* ...	*B.*	*Pd.* 5*s.* 6*d.*			
15.	.....	*Richard Jeffrey*...	2, *Ditto*	*Free*	*M.* 4*d.*			
16.	*Oct.* 25.	*Mary Cox*.....	*No.* 3, *William Street*	*Free*	*W.* 2*d.*			
17.	.....	*Kitty Blake*	*No.* 2, *Back Alley*....	*B.*	*W.* 1*d.*			
18.	*Nov.* 1.	*William Leas*	4, *Ditto*	*Free*	*W.* 2*d.*			
19.	.....	*James Smith*.....	*No.* 7, *William Street*	*Free*	*A.* 10*s.* 6*d.*			

Called over 12 *November*, 1819.

A. B. Minute Secretary.
C. D. Cash Secretary.
E. F. Bible Secretary.

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS

Monthly Amount..

the COLLECTING BOOK.

SPECIMEN
THE
Book.

Ruled double Folios.]

DAYS FOR COLLECTING THE SUBSCRIPTIONS.

July.				*August.*					*September.*				*October.*				*November.*					*December.*				Total Amount received to 27 *Dec.*			Date when the B. or T. was delivered.
5	12	19	26	2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27	4	11	18	25	1	8	15	22	29	6	13	20	27	£.	s.	d.	
42s.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	0	
4s.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4s.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	8	0	
6	6	6	..	1s.	1	6	6	1s.	1s.	6	6	..	1s	1s.	2s.	..	Commenced Free Contributor, see No. 16 below.									0	11	6	18 *Oct.* 1819
1	1	...	...	...	4	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	5	1	1	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	1	7	
6	...	...	...	6	...	...	...	6	...	...	...	6	...	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1s.	...	0	3	6	
1/6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1/6	Removed to District 12.												0	3	0	
10s.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	10	0	
4	4	4	..	8	4	4	..	8	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	..	8	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	0	8	8	
...	2	2	2	4	2	2	..	6	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	...	...	6	..	4	6	0	4	10	15 *Jan.* 1820
...	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	2	1	
...	1	1	..	2	1	1	1	..	2	1	1	1	..	2	1		Removed to District 6.									0	1	3	
...	1	1	1	1	..	2	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	3	..	2	1	..	0	2	5	
...	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	..	4	..	4	2	2	4	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	0	4	4	
...	5/6	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	..	1	1	1	1	1	..	2	..	2	1	0	6	6	15 *Jan.* 1820
...	4	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	0	2	0	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	0	1	10	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	1	1	..	2	Declined.						0	0	4	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	0	1	6	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10/6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	10	6	

| £. s. d. | | | | | | | | | | | |

Third and *Fourth* Specimens

THIRD
OF
Collecting

[To occupy one half of the last double

Discontinua-

FREE.

No.	No. in the List of Contributors.	Name.	Ceased to contribute.	Observations.
			1819.	
1.	6	*William Hatton* . .	18 *Oct.*	*Removed to District* 12.
2.	12	*Edward Hodgson* .	27 *Dec.*	*Wages reduced.*
3.	8	*John Heel*	7	*Until he obtain a Testament.*

FOURTH
OF
Collecting

[To occupy one half of the last double

Loan Tes-

When voted.	No. of Testament.	Receiver's Name.	Residence.
1819.			
9 *July.*	7	*Mary Candler*	*No.* 3, *Plough Court* . . .
13 *Oct.*	22	*Thomas Jones*	*Back Alley* . . . . .

of the COLLECTING BOOK.

SPECIMEN
THE
Book.

Folio at the end of the Book.]

-tion List.

FOR BIBLES AND TESTAMENTS.

No.	No. in the List of Subscribers.	Name.	Ceased to subscribe.	Observations.
			1819.	
1.	3	*Mary Cox*	25 *Oct.*	*Became a Free Contributor.*
2.	9	*Martha Berry* . .	27 *Dec.*	*Ditto* ... *Ditto.*
3.	14	*George Johnson* . .	.....	*Left the Town.*
4.	11	*Thomas Day*	25 *Oct.*	*Removed to District* 6.
5.	17	*Kitty Blake*	22 *Nov.*	*Removed from the Town.*

SPECIMEN
THE
Book.

Folio at the end of the Book.]

-taments.

Observations.	When returned.
	1819.
Loan renewed 13 *August; Ditto* 10 *September*	12 *December.*
Became a Subscriber for a Testament 8 *November.* . . .	10 *November.*

NO. III.—COLLECTORS' BAGS.

These Bags are made of strong Brown Holland, and are about six inches long, and five inches wide. Two Bags are appropriated to each district; both of which are stamped, or printed, with the number of the district; thus:—

"DISTRICT
No. 2."

One of the two bags is delivered with the books, &c. to the Collectors of the district, and the duplicate bag is retained by the Cash Secretary. The use of these bags, and the mode of exchanging them at every Committee meeting, will be fully described in reference to the "Fair Minute Book," No. XI. of this division.

NO. IV.—COMMITTEE CARDS.

I. Many Associations adopt the plan of giving, annually, to every collector and officer, a card, containing on one side a list of the committee-days for the ensuing twelve months; and on the other, a few "Suggestions," similar to those inserted in the first page of the Collecting-book. The author would, however, respectfully submit, whether these cards may not be altogether dispensed with, and the expense, as well as that of Committee notices, be saved to the Association, by adopting the plan already recommended. *(See No. II. First Specimen.)* The importance of economy, as far as is consistent with a due attention to order and regularity, has been already adverted to; and those who are really interested in the cause will find the information contained in their Collecting-books a sufficient monition, to remind them of a duty and a privilege. If, however, a card be deemed requisite or desirable, it is only necessary to add, that the customary size is that denominated "half-large" by the stationers.

II. Whether the plan here recommended, or that of cards be adopted, it will be evident no official notice of the *regular* committee-meetings will be necessary. Such notice should be confined to *special* committee-meetings; and the less frequently *such* meetings are called, the better. As, however, they may occasionally be necessary, the form of the summons is given. *(See No. XIV.)*

NO. V.—BIBLE-SUBSCRIBERS' CARDS.

I. These cards are of the size called "half-large," and of a strong though cheap quality. As many as appear likely to be required are given to the collectors of each district, with their books, &c.; and should more be required, the collectors are supplied on application to the *Bible* Secretary.

II. The author acknowledges, with pleasure, his obligation to the zealous and indefatigable Ladies of the Liverpool Branch Committee,

for this recent improvement, which obviates many difficulties, and furnishes a constant check to the Collecting-books. When collectors exchanged districts (an evil that should be guarded against as much as possible, for the poor love old faces better than new ones), or a new collector was appointed, the respectful but shrewd remark, "You are not the good lady that calls on us," frequently saluted her ears, and the production of the Collecting-book did not *always* satisfy incredulity. But this little card removes every doubt, by confirming the answer which the Collecting-book enables the new collector to give to the second question,—"Pray, Ma'am, how much have I got to pay up?" The feeling of confidence is thus transferred to the new visitor, who gradually succeeds to that respectful attachment which her predecessor enjoyed. Nor are these the only advantages which are derived from this simple invention. The subscriber shews the card to his or her neighbours, and confidence extends with a knowledge of the object. If a collector omit calling regularly, the inattention is immediately detected, as the card is shewn to the collectors of a neighbouring district. And finally, it gratifies the poor—a consequence which, alone, is an ample repayment for the trifling expense incurred.

III. The sum paid by the subscriber, at every visit, should be immediately filled in; and no money should be received without asking the subscriber for the card, that it may be regularly entered. When the Bible or Testament is delivered, a memorandum similar to that in the specimen is made, and the card remains in the possession of the subscriber.

IV. On the back of the card, the name and address of one or more of the collectors of the district should be legibly written, before it is delivered to the subscriber.

V. It will easily be perceived, that this card answers for twelve months, whatever be the time of commencing the subscription. It is only necessary to enter the weekly payments opposite to the month and day on which they were received, and to add up the total of each column. Should a second card be required, the total amount should be carried forward from the first. But this is rarely the case: the habit of saving a penny weekly, is one that gradually strengthens and extends; and the subscription is generally doubled, or even quadrupled, before many weeks have elapsed. Many a Bible in Great Britain is increasingly endeared to its possessor, by the recollection, that the *first penny* subscribed, in order to obtain it, laid the foundation of comparative independence and temporal comfort.

SPECIMEN
OF THE
BIBLE SUBSCRIBERS' CARD.

DISTRICT NO. *2.*

Mary Cox, No. 3, William Street. BIBLE SUBSCRIBER.

	s.	d.		s.	d.		s.	d.		s.	d.
July 5		6	Oct..... 4	1	0	Jan. 3		.	Apr..... 4		.
12		6	11	1	0	10		.	11		.
19		6	18	2	0	17		.	18		.
26		.	25		.	24		.	25		.
Aug. ... 2	1	0	Nov.... 1		.	31		.	May.... 2		.
9	1	0	8		.	Feb..... 7		.	9		.
16		6	15		.	14		.	16		.
23		6	22		.	21		.	23		.
30	1	0	29		.	28		.	30		.
Sept. ... 6	1	0	Dec..... 6		.	Mar..... 7		.	June.... 6		.
13		6	13		.	14		.	13		.
20		6	20		.	21		.	20		.
27		.	27		.	28		.	27		.
	7	6		4	0				Total...	11	6

Supplied with a *Small-Pica Bible*, on the *25th* of *October*, 1819.

NO. VI.—TRANSFER TICKETS.

I. The importance of this part of the system will be evident to those who have considered the habits of the labouring classes of society, especially in large towns. Either from choice, or from necessity, their change of residence is frequent; and great inconvenience has consequently arisen in carrying the regulations of the Society into effect. After several years' experience of the advantages of this plan, it is recommended, as the most simple and effectual mode of preventing loss to the subscriber, and trouble to the collector.

II. The tickets are printed on stout paper; their size is that of the annexed specimens; and a few of both kinds are given to the respective collectors, with their books and papers. Should more be required, they are supplied on application to the *Minute* Secretary.

III. In both the cases to which the following Specimens refer, the subscribers removed into other districts of *the same* Association; consequently the mode of proceeding in reference to such instances will be *first* considered.

When a Free Contributor or Bible Subscriber removes into ano-

ther district of the same Association, it is unnecessary for the Secretaries to take any notice of such removal in the "List of Free Contributors," or "Bible Book." But when the party removes to a place within the compass of *another* Association, an entry of the fact should be made, opposite to the name, in the proper book.

IV. In reference to the FIRST SPECIMEN—The collectors of district No. 2, having ascertained that William Hatton had removed to Broad Street, which is not in their district, made the requisite entries in their Collecting-book, and filled up this Transfer-ticket; which was put into their bag, and presented, with their report and money, at the next Committee-meeting. On calling it over, in its turn, it appeared that No. 7, Broad Street, is in district No. 12; and the ticket was accordingly handed to the collectors of that district, who were thus prevented from calling on him before the termination of the quarter, and reminded of doing so at the proper time.

V. The mode of proceeding with regard to *Bible Subscribers'* Transfer-tickets is somewhat different, and is illustrated by the SECOND SPECIMEN. The collectors having been informed by Elizabeth Day, that she was about to remove to Long Lane, made the requisite entry in their book, and *gave her* this ticket, properly filled up and signed; informing her, that she would be regularly called on by other Ladies of the Committee, to whom she should give this ticket. A duplicate ticket having been put into the bag, and presented at the Committee, was handed to the collectors of District No. 6, which comprises Long Lane; and being entered in their Collecting Book as a new subscriber, who had paid 1*s.* 3*d.*, she was called on, in course, on the following Monday.

From the preceding observations, it will be evident, that an Association will require double the number of BIBLE-Subscribers' Transfer-tickets.

FIRST SPECIMEN,

FREE CONTRIBUTORS' TRANSFER TICKET.

Charles,' Plymouth,

LADIES' BIBLE ASSOCIATION.

DISTRICT NO. 2.

William Hatton, a FREE Contributor of 1*s.* 6*d.* a *Quarter,* has removed from this District, and now resides at *No.* 7, *Broad Street.* *Caroline Thompson,* Collector.

18*th* of *Oct.* 1819.

N. B. The last payment was made on the 4*th of October.*

SECOND SPECIMEN,

BIBLE SUBSCRIBERS' TRANSFER TICKET,

Charles', Plymouth,

LADIES' BIBLE ASSOCIATION.

DISTRICT NO. *2.*

Elizabeth Day has removed from this District, and now resides at *No.* 21, *Long Lane.* Has paid 1*s.* 3*d.* towards a *Testament.*

Jane Brown, Collector.

25*th* of *Oct.* 1819.

VI. The mode of proceeding, in all cases where the subscriber removes from one to another district of the *same* Association, is thus clear and simple. But as the place to which the individual has removed may belong to *another* Association, in connexion with the same Ladies' Branch Society, the mode pursued in such case should next be considered.

1. The FREE-CONTRIBUTORS' Transfer-ticket is presented by the collectors, as in the former case, to the Committee, and is given in charge to the CASH Secretary, who hands it over, at the next meeting of the Branch Committee, to the Cash Secretary of that Association into which the contributor has removed; and she delivers it, as mentioned in the Fourth Observation, to the proper collector.

2. The BIBLE-SUBSCRIBERS' Transfer-ticket is, as in the former case, delivered to the subscriber, and the duplicate presented to the Committee; but the latter is retained and filed by the BIBLE Secretary. The counterpart being received by the collectors of the district into which the subscriber has removed, is presented at *their* Committee, and retained and filed by the Bible Secretary of *their* Association. At the end of the year, a little bill is furnished by the latter Association to the former; which, after having been checked by means of the duplicate tickets, is discharged by a resolution of that Committee which had received the first part of the payment.* All money thus received, is reported by the Bible Secretary, and entered, at the end of the District Collections, in the Cash

* Or the claims on all sides may be cancelled, by a resolution of each Committee to that effect, if the amounts be inconsiderable. In Associations connected with the same Ladies' Branch, this is strongly recommended.

Book, under the head "Bible Secretary."—*See No.* XV. FIRST SPECIMEN.

VII. Where no *Ladies'* Branch Society is formed, but two or more Associations are in connexion with an Auxiliary or Branch Society, a similar mode of proceeding may be adopted: and in the Metropolis, the plan of a periodical "Conference" affords peculiar facilities for carrying it into effect.

VIII. This subject may appear of comparatively trifling importance: but those who have had experience in the practical duties of Bible Associations, will not speedily forget the difficulties and misrepresentations to which they were subjected before the introduction of this plan, by the adoption of which they have been entirely obviated.

IX. It must be evident that this mode cannot be pursued when the Bible Subscriber removes to a considerable distance, as the expense of postage precludes the necessary intercourse. The usual proceeding in such a case, is, either to refund the money received, or to get the subscriber to authorise some person to continue the subscription, and receive the Bible or Testament. Occurrences of this kind are not very uncommon; and the character and reputation of the society will be best maintained, by immediately refunding the money paid by any subscriber thus circumstanced, who may wish to have it returned.

NO. VII.—LOAN TICKETS.

It has been already observed, that the Association in question has adopted the Loan-Fund plan. For the Rules and Regulations by which it is governed, and a short statement of its more prominent advantages, the reader is referred to Chap. VIII. Sect. II. It is now necessary to describe the practical application of these Rules.

I. The Tickets are of the same size as the Specimen, and are printed on stout paper. They are stitched in books, containing 100 Tickets each; and given in charge to the BIBLE Secretary, who places one of the books before the Treasurer at every Committee meeting.

II. In the case to which the Specimen refers, it will be found (*see No.* I. *Second Specimen*) that the collectors describe *Mary Candler* as destitute of the holy scriptures, "a widow, and very poor;" circumstances which they, very properly, judged to be sufficient grounds for recommending her to the Committee, as a suitable object for a Loan Testament. She was accordingly recommended in their next Monthly Report (*see No.* X, *Second Specimen*); and being approved by the Committee, the ticket was filled up by the Treasurer * at the table, and handed to the collectors, by

* When the Chair is filled by the Treasurer, she requests one of the Collectors to sit near her, and fulfil this duty.

whom it was signed, and delivered to Mary Candler; who was at the same time told to apply for the Testament at the specified time, and to preserve it from injury while in her possession.

III. As the Rules of the Loan Fund authorise a collector to extend the advantages of it to persons in sickness, &c., without waiting for a Committee meeting, it should be recollected that the same form of application must be adopted, although the Testament may have been delivered: as, without this, the regular order of the proceedings would be violated, and the Bible Secretary's account and vouchers be incomplete.

IV. When the Bible Secretary receives the Ticket, she makes the requisite entry in the Loan-Fund Book, and fills up the blanks at the end of the ticket, by inserting the No. of the Testament lent, which she then delivers.

V. According to the Rules, the respective collectors have authority to extend the loan beyond a month; but their Monthly Report should specify every outstanding Testament in their district.

SPECIMEN OF THE LOAN TICKET.

Charles' LADIES' BIBLE ASSOCIATION.

DISTRICT
No. 2. 9*th* of *July*, 1819.

The Bearer, *Mary Candler*,
Residing at *No.* 3, *Plough Court*,

is the person to whom the loan of *a Pica Testament* was voted at the last Meeting of the Committee.

To *Mrs. Williams*,
Bible Secretary,
at No. 14, *Green Street*.

Maria Smith,
Caroline Thompson, } Collectors.

Apply any *Tues*-day between 12 and 3 o'Clock.

SUPPLIED WITH TESTAMENT NO. 7.

NO. VIII.—DELIVERY TICKETS.

I. Although this Association adopts the plan of *Public* Distribution, some cases occur, and will be found to occur in most Associations, which justify a departure from it; and provision is made for such cases by the *Eighth* By-Law.—*See Observation on that By-Law, Section* III.

II. The Tickets are the same size as the Specimen, and are printed on stout paper. They are stitched in books containing

50 each, and one or two books of each kind will be generally found sufficient for a moderately extensive Association: they are given in charge to the Bible Secretary.

III. The case to which the Specimen refers, was one which amply justified the immediate delivery of the Bible. By the entry in the Visiting Book (*See No.* I. *Second Specimen*), it appeared that Mary Cox was in bad health, and "anxious for a Bible:" and by the Collecting Book (*No.* II. *Second Specimen*), it will be found that she had not only paid up the *Cost* price, but had become a *Free* Contributor of twopence a-week. Under these circumstances, the collectors immediately applied to the Bible Secretary, who filled up the ticket and check; and cutting off the former, delivered it to the collectors, by whom it was given to the subscriber.

IV. In Associations which have *not* adopted the plan of public distributions, *each district* is furnished with a book of these tickets, and the collectors apply to the Bible Secretary when a further supply is required.

V. It will be perceived that the number following the subscriber's name has reference to her number in the "Bible Book" (*See No.* XVIII. *First Specimen*). This will be found useful in detecting any error. The number is inserted by the Bible Secretary when the Ticket is presented.

SPECIMEN OF THE DELIVERY TICKET.

Charles'
LADIES'
Bible Association,
District No. 2.

No. 1. 25 *of Oct.* 1819.
To *Mary Cox.*
(*No.* 23.)
at 3, *William Street,*
a *Small-Pica* Bible.

Sum paid, 11*s.* 6*d.*

Charles' Ladies' Bible Association.

No. of District, 2. 18*th* of *October*, 1819

Deliver to *Mary Cox,* *No.* 23

residing at *No.* 3, *William Street,*

a *Small-Pica* Bible, for which 11*s.* 6*d.* has been paid

Jane Brown,
Caroline Thompson, } Collectors

To *Mrs. Williams,* Bible Secretary,

at *No.* 14, *Green Street.*

On any *Tues*-day, between 12 and 3 o'clock.

NO. IX.—PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION TICKETS.

The reader is referred to Chap. VIII. Section III. for Specimens of these Tickets, Collectors' Lists, &c., and every other requisite information on the subject of public distributions. The importance of giving full consideration to this mode of supply, and its general adoption by Country Associations, seem to justify this arrangement; as the Specimens will be more clearly understood when seen in connexion with every other part of the plan.

NO. X.—COLLECTORS' MONTHLY REPORT.

Hitherto we have considered the duties of a Collector, only in reference to her character *as such;* but we have now to view her as a member of the Committee, and as supplying that information which shall satisfy herself, her colleagues, and the public; that the cause of benevolence wherein she is engaged is one that is worthy of pursuit, and that the results of her exertions are beneficial to her fellow-creatures.

I. This Report is contained on both sides of a half sheet of copy paper; and should be filled up previous to the meeting of the Committee, and placed, with the money collected, in the Bag.

II. The importance of these Monthly Reports will be evident, when it is considered, that it is to them we are indebted for the most full and authentic details relative to the domestic proceedings of the Bible Society. The Collectors may be considered as the representatives of that Institution, within their allotted sphere of usefulness; and their reports constitute the materials for those general statements which the Association furnishes to the Branch or Auxiliary Society; as well as an interesting portion of the annual details published by the latter, and transmitted to the Parent Institution. This periodical information, like the contributions by which it is accompanied, may be compared to those rivulets, small but refreshing, that gradually increase the river into which they flow, till the united waters, rolling onward, dispense health and fertility around.

III. An examination of the FIRST SPECIMEN will convince the reader, that the form of this report is so prepared as to save the time and trouble of the Collectors as much as possible: but care should be taken that *every* blank is filled. The *erroneous* insertion of a subscriber's name a *second* time is one of the principal risks against which a Collector must be on her guard. It should be always remembered, that the only information required, under this head, relates to those who have become subscribers, or free contributors, *since the preceding report;* and that the object is, to enable the Secretaries to keep a correct list of all the contributors and subscribers. All persons giving donations, should be included, during the *current* year, in the return of "Number of Free Contributors." A reference to the Collecting Book (*See No.* II. *Second Specimen*) will afford any further requisite explanation.

IV. It frequently happens, especially at the commencement of an Association, that the spaces left for the insertion of new subscribers' names are inadequate to the purpose. In such case, a piece of paper should be appended to the report, for those names which cannot be inserted in the printed form. It will be perceived, that the other particulars required are also obtained from the *Collecting* Book; and their importance will be obvious to those who consider how necessary it is to provide a constant check on the books of the Association, in order that any inaccuracy or omission may be promptly corrected.

Observations on the Collectors' Monthly Report.

v. It sometimes happens, that the subscriber wishes for a different kind of Bible or Testament to that originally selected; and this wish should always be gratified. The principal advantage will still be attained—that of enabling the Bible Secretary to keep a stock of the descriptions most in request.

vi. Allusion has already been made to the importance of those "Facts and Observations" which these reports have been the means of eliciting, and which the SECOND SPECIMEN is designed to illustrate. But it cannot be too strongly impressed on the minds of Collectors, that the *best* fact is that which is *best* authenticated; and the *best* observation, that which is the result of experience. Facts, like valuable fruit, should be attentively watched, and suffered to ripen and mature before they are gathered; and it will be generally found, that those are the most precious which have been the longest in attaining this state of maturity. Nor is an inferior degree of caution and prudence requisite in reporting these facts:—compression, simplicity of language, and a disposition to withhold rather than exaggerate the truth, will always render a fact more pleasing in itself, and excite a greater degree of interest in the auditors. When the allotted space is insufficient to contain the information which the Collector wishes to communicate, a piece of paper is appended to the report.—*See* IVth *Observation.*

A reference to the *Visiting* Book (*No.* I. *Second Specimen*) will enable the reader to trace the information communicated in this part of the *First* Monthly Report.

vii. As the annexed Specimens are transcripts of the *First* Monthly Report presented by the Collectors of a district, they do not embrace some important subjects which arise out of the proceedings of the Association. In order to give a clear view of this part of the system, a copy of the *Sixth* Monthly Report of the same Collectors is subjoined.—The interesting facts which it communicates preclude the necessity of apology for this apparent repetition.

viii. The Collectors who sign the report, are those who have acted during the past month. It frequently happens, that illness, absence from home, or some other unavoidable cause, prevents one or more of the Collectors of a district fulfilling the requisite duties; and it is necessary that the Secretaries and Committee should know to whom they may refer, in case of any explanation being required. The names are not read at the Committee.

ix. The interesting fact related under the head of "LOAN STOCK," in the second of the two following *Duplicate* Specimens, is a delightful evidence of the advantages of this part of the plan; especially as the author is enabled to state, on the same respectable authority, that the perusal of the sacred records was obviously blessed to this poor penitent, who died "with a hope full of immortality, rejoicing in the name of Jesus Christ!"

FIRST SPECIMEN
OF THE
COLLECTORS' MONTHLY REPORT.
[Being the First Page of the Report.]

Charles' LADIES' BIBLE ASSOCIATION.

Monthly Report of District No. *2*,
Presented *9th* of *July*, 1819.

We have received this Month,	£.	s.	d.
In FREE Contributions	2	18	4
In Subscriptions for Bibles and Testaments . . .	0	0	7
TOTAL	2	18	11

The following Persons have become Subscribers since our last Monthly Report; viz.

Began to contribute.	FREE.	Sort and Amount of Contribution	Began to subscribe.	For BIBLES and TESTAMENTS.	Kind of Bible or Testament.
July 5.	*Captain Owen* ...	*A.* 2*l.* 2*s.*	*July* 5.	*Mary Cox*.....	*P. B.*
....	*Daniel Goss*.....	*Q.* 4*s.*	...	*Susan Ladd*.....	*L. P. T.*
....	*Henry Walters*..	*M.* 6*d.*			
....	*William Hatton* .	*Q.* 1*s.* 6*d.*			
....	*Eliza Bacon*	*D.* 10*s.*			
....	*John Heel*.....	*W.* 4*d.*			

	Total.
Number of FREE Contributors now subscribing	6
Number of Subscribers for Bibles and Testaments not yet supplied	2 . . 8
Number of FREE Contributors since the Establishment of the Association	6
Number of Subscribers for Bibles and Testaments since the Establishment of the Association	2 . . 8
Number of Bibles and Testaments distributed to the date of the last Report	
Number of Bibles and Testaments distributed since the last Report	*not any.*

Second Specimen of the COLLECTORS' MONTHLY REPORT.

SECOND SPECIMEN
OF THE
COLLECTORS' MONTHLY REPORT,
[Being the Second Page of the Report.]

FACTS AND OBSERVATIONS.

We have been received with the greatest kindness and cordiality throughout that part of our district which we have visited. Of fifteen families, we found five destitute of the holy scriptures; and four of these gratefully availed themselves of the advantages of the Association.

Were it not for this personal investigation, we could scarcely have believed that so much misery and ignorance existed within those walls, which we have daily, and too thoughtlessly passed, for many years. Some of these cases we have recommended to the notice of their more affluent neighbours; and, we rejoice to say, with considerable success.

Short as has been the time since we engaged in this good work, we have been abundantly convinced of its necessity; and, we humbly trust, are gratefully sensible of the privilege we enjoy in being permitted to co-operate in it.

We propose Miss Jane Goss, of No. 1, William-street; and Mrs. Walters, of No. 6, William-street, as suitable Ladies to be invited to join the Committee.

LOAN STOCK.

The Testaments, Nos. are now on Loan in this District; relative to which we have to report—

We recommend Mary Candler, residing at No. 3, Plough Court, as a suitable person to be supplied with a Loan Testament, Pica size. She is a widow, very poor, with six children, and receives parochial relief. She expresses much gratitude and pleasure in the prospect of having a Testament to read.

Maria Smith,
Jane Brown, } Collectors.

*** The Collectors are earnestly and respectfully requested to fill up every blank in their Reports.
All persons presenting donations come under the class of FREE Contributors.

Duplicate *First* Specimen of the COLLECTORS' MONTHLY REPORT.

DUPLICATE *FIRST* SPECIMEN
OF THE
COLLECTORS' MONTHLY REPORT.

[Being the First Page of the Report.]

Charles' LADIES' BIBLE ASSOCIATION.

Monthly Report of District No. *2*,

Presented *10th* of *Dec.* 1819.

We have received this Month,	£.	s.	d.
In FREE Contributions	2	5	0
In Subscriptions for Bibles and Testaments . . .	0	10	6
TOTAL	2	15	6

The following Persons have become Subscribers since our last Monthly Report; viz.

Began to subscribe.	FREE.	Sort and Amount of Contribution.	Began to subscribe.	For BIBLES and TESTAMENTS.	Kind of Bible or Testament.
Nov. 19.	*Henry Rivers, Esq.*	*D.* 1*l.*	*Nov.* 19.	*John Lewis*	*P. T.*
....	*Miss Rivers*.....	*A.* 10*s.* 6*d.*	....	*Samuel Short*....	*B. B.*
—26.	*James Scott*.....	*M.* 1*s.*	.. .	*Mary Monk*	*M. B.*
Dec. 7.	*Eliza Weston* ...	*W.* 1*d.*	....	*Sarah Toms*.....	*M. B.*
....	*Lucy Morgan* ...	*Q.* 4*s.*	*Dec.* 7.	*James James*	*B. T.*
			....	*Betsey Wilson*...	*B. B.*
			....	*Susan Swann*....	*L. P. T.*
			....	*John Heel*.....	*P. T.*
	John Heel, transferred to Bible Subscribers, 7th of December.				

		Total.
Number of FREE Contributors now subscribing	32	
Number of Subscribers for Bibles and Testaments not yet supplied	44	... 76
Number of FREE Contributors since the Establishment of the Association	36	
Number of Subscribers for Bibles and Testaments since the Establishment of the Association	61	... 97
Number of Bibles and Testaments distributed to the date of the last Report	15	
Number of Bibles and Testaments distributed since the last Report	2	... 17

Duplicate *Second* Specimen of the COLLECTORS' MONTHLY REPORT.

DUPLICATE *SECOND* SPECIMEN
OF THE
COLLECTORS' MONTHLY REPORT.

[Being the Second Page of the Report.]

FACTS AND OBSERVATIONS.

A Lad, a boy of colour, who received a Bible from your Society, was previously a pest to the neighbourhood; idle, profligate, and profane. He has now been in the possession of it several months; and not only his mother, but the more impartial neighbours, testify to the reformation which has taken place in his conduct and manners. He is become humble, dutiful, and conscientious. Being lame, he cannot perform any thing arduous; but, by increased industry, he has DOUBLED *his weekly earnings. The correctness of his language is striking: never is he now heard to pronounce the name of* GOD, *but with reverence and awe. At church he is now a constant attendant, with his Bible under his arm, which he appears to value as an inestimable treasure; and his poor mother speaks of the happy change with emotions of rapturous gratitude.*

John Heel, a Free Contributor of fourpence a-week, wishes to subscribe for a Pica Testament, for his daughter. He promises to continue his Free Contribution after he receives it.

LOAN STOCK.

The Testaments, Nos. 5, 17, 20, 25, are now on Loan in this District; relative to which we have to report—*that they are all carefully preserved, but Nos. 5 and 20 particularly valued. We have the pleasure to state, that No. 34, returned to the Bible Secretary since last Report, was attentively perused by a poor sick woman, since deceased. On our first visit, she was hostile to the name of a Bible; but when visited by sickness, she sent for us: and on our arrival, after imploring forgiveness for having so often rudely turned us from her dwelling, begged to read that Book she had hitherto despised and ridiculed. The Testament was immediately lent to her, which she constantly read; and a Clergyman, who frequently visited her in her illness, stated, that she died, blessing with her last breath the Society which had thus furnished her with the Word of* GOD, *and through it brought her to the knowledge of a* SAVIOUR.

Jane Brown,
Caroline Thompson, } Collectors.

*** The Collectors are earnestly and respectfully requested to fill up every blank in their Reports.

All persons presenting Donations come under the class of FREE Contributors.

*** It will be observed, that the *printed* forms of all the preceding Specimens, from No. I. to No. X. inclusive, are equally applicable to Bible Associations, whether conducted by Ladies or Gentlemen; or whether connected directly with an Auxiliary or Branch Society, or with a Ladies' Branch. And those portions of the *manuscript* part, which exhibit the peculiar constitution of the Association in question, are so readily distinguished as to render any further remark unnecessary.

SECRETARIES' BOOKS AND PAPERS.

It has been remarked, in detailing the mode of establishing a Bible Association, that in order to conduct the business with system and facility, *Three* Secretaries are necessary; and that they are respectively designated, the Minute, Cash, and Bible Secretaries. The Books of which they take charge, and the Reports which they present monthly to their own Committee, and (in Associations so connected) to the Ladies' Branch, come next under consideration: but a few preliminary remarks appear necessary, in order to shew the importance of these books and papers.

I. It is an adage, not the less true for its antiquity, that "whatever is worth doing, is worth doing *well*." The concerns of a Bible Association should be so conducted by the Secretaries, that in the event of a Collector's death, or the loss of her book, the official records of the Society may supply every requisite information, and prevent any delay in furnishing every subscriber with the holy scriptures. The Secretaries should be intimately acquainted, not only with the *general* state of the Association, but with the *particular* details of the several districts; and this information is more easily acquired than many may believe possible. In this case, as in that of the Collectors, the secret of success may be found in the *Division of Labour*:—each of the Secretaries has her own allotted duties; and they are so apportioned, that an hour or two monthly will be found sufficient to discharge them.

II. It will save considerable time and trouble, as well as prevent the risk of error, if the Secretaries make the requisite entries in their respective books as soon as possible after every Committee-meeting. As the correctness of these entries depends on that of the Collectors' Reports, any necessary explanation should be immediately solicited from the latter.

III. The Books and Papers appertaining to the Secretaries of the Association in question, are—

To the MINUTE Secretary:

The Rough Minute Book. | 12. The Agenda.
11. The Fair Minute Book. | 13. The Report Book.
14. Special Committee Summons.

To the CASH Secretary:

15. The Cash Book. | 16. The Free Contributors' Book.
17. The Monthly Statement.

To the BIBLE Secretary:

18. The Bible Book. | 20. The Monthly Report.
19. The Bible Secretary's Orders. | 21. The Loan-Fund Book.

As the "Rough Minute Book" is merely a quire or two of paper, of the most convenient size, procured by the Minute Secretary, to enter the proceedings of the Committee, and to preserve the neatness of the Minute Book, it requires no further notice. The "Loan-Fund Book," it will be evident, is not necessary where this part of the system is not adopted. The five other books are required by *every* Association which is properly organized: they are of the size denominated "Large Post Quarto," and are strongly half-bound and lettered.* Each book contains about 200 single pages, or 100 leaves, ruled throughout with faint lines: they are calculated to last for five or six years. For small Associations, embracing a single village, &c., a less expensive set of books, on the same plan, may be procured.

These various Books and Papers will now be described in their proper order.

The following appertain to the department of the MINUTE Secretary—

NO. XI.—FAIR MINUTE BOOK.

1. This Book is precisely similar in form to that which has been described as No. 1, Section V. Chap. II.; and a few leaves at the beginning should be ruled according to the Specimen there given, to contain a register of the attendance of the members. When the *Bible* Secretary calls over the names (*See "Hints" to the Secretaries, &c. Chap.* VIII. *Section* I.), she places P. opposite to those of the Ladies who are present, and leaves blanks opposite to those of the absentees. The number of attendances being filled in at the end of each year, is a gratifying record of the punctuality of the members. The Fair Minute Book is laid on the table at every Committee-meeting, and the Bible Secretary reads from it the proceedings of the preceding Committee: this should never be done from the Rough Minute Book, which is designed to save time, but should not in any case be considered the register of official records.

* These books may be had, *bound in sheep*, at a very trifling additional expense. The superiority of this binding, in books designed to last for several years, is manifest.

Observations on the FAIR MINUTE BOOK.

II. The Minutes of the *first* Committee-meeting having been already transcribed in the preceding Section, the following Specimen contains the Minutes of the *second* meeting; and will sufficiently illustrate the mode of proceeding at every subsequent meeting of the Committee; with the exception of those which precede a public distribution, and the Annual Meeting of the Association, or of the Auxiliary or Branch Society with which it is connected.

III. The last Minute of the *first* Committee-meeting having been No. 7, the first Minute of this meeting is No. 8, and the first Minute of the third will be 25. By adopting this mode of continuing the numbers progressively throughout the book, the reference to any particular Minute is made with greater facility, and a considerable saving of time and trouble is effected. A marginal line is ruled for this purpose.

IV. After inserting the names of the officers and Committee, the Minute Secretary begins to transcribe, at the first page, the proceedings of the *General Meeting* at which the Association was established; but instead of copying the Rules and By-Laws, she refers to the printed copy, one of which should be pasted inside the cover of *every* book used by the Secretaries. Having transcribed the resolutions of the General Meeting, she draws a double line, and begins on the next page the Minutes of the first Committee-meeting. Thus the Minutes which supply this Specimen begin at page 15.

V. It will be perceived, on reference to the 3d By-Law, Sect. 3, that the proceedings are conducted in strict accordance with the prescribed regulations. The Lady who presides should always have a copy of the By-Laws before her, and should prevent any deviation from the regular course, as well as the introduction of any subject not immediately connected with the single and pure object of the Society—"the circulation of the holy scriptures without note or comment." The first meeting of the Committee having been a *special* one, in order to complete the organization of the Society, this Specimen should be considered as detailing the proceedings of the first regular *Monthly* Committee-meeting; that is, the first at which the Collectors presented Reports and paid in their collections.

VI. So much depends on the order and regularity with which the business of a Committee is conducted, that no apology will be requisite for the minuteness of the following suggestions:—At every Committee-meeting, the *Minute* Secretary should sit on the left of the Lady who presides, and the *Cash* and *Bible* Secretaries on her right; the *latter* having the duplicate collecting-bags, delivered in the preceding month, piled before her, in order; No. 1 being on the top; and each bag being furnished with a blank form of the Monthly Report, and the requisite number of copies of the "Monthly Extracts." When the Minute Secretary calls for the Collectors' Reports, the bags are handed in numerical order, to the

Bible Secretary, who returns the duplicate bag to the Collector, and then passes the *Report* to the *Minute* Secretary, by whom it is read: the Bible Secretary in the mean time counts the money she has received in the bag, and enters the amount on a strip of paper. As the Minute Secretary announces the respective amounts, "FREE," "BIBLES," and "TOTAL," the Cash Secretary enters the several sums in the proper columns of the Cash Book (*See No.* XV. *First Specimen*). If the total announced by the Minute Secretary be different to that which the Bible Secretary has found in the bag, the latter immediately refers to the Collector of the district for the necessary explanation, *before* the Cash Secretary has made the entry. The risk of error is thus avoided by the immediate correction of any inadvertence. Having replaced the money in the bag, the Bible Secretary proceeds in the same manner with respect to the remaining districts. Before the Cash Secretary makes her report of the sums received, she compares the aggregate amount with the Bible Secretary; and it will preserve the neatness of her book, if she make the entry of the "Total" amount received, *after* such comparison. The Cash Secretary takes home the bags and money, pays over the *whole* of the latter to the Treasurer, and arranges the bags in readiness for the next Committee-meeting, when she places them on the table before the Bible Secretary.

*** *Such further observations as appear necessary will be inserted after the Specimen.*

SPECIMEN OF THE FAIR MINUTE BOOK.

[Being the Minutes of the Second Committee-Meeting.]

Council Chamber, Guildhall, 9th July, 1819;— 15
At the Second Meeting of the Committee.

Present, Mrs. *H.* . . . . . in the Chair;

Rev. *T. H.* . . and *H. M.* . . and Messrs. *H. G.*, *W. P.*, and *J. H.* . . from the Auxiliary Society . . . . . } Visitors;
Miss *J. P.* . . and *H. T.* . . from the Branch . . . . . }

and those Ladies who are marked as present in the List of the Committee.

The Minutes of the last Committee having been read, it was resolved—

8. That the said Minutes be confirmed.

9. That the following Ladies, having accepted the invitation conveyed to them, pursuant to the 3d Minute, be added to the Committee; viz.

Miss *A. R.* . . . . . of . . . . . ——— Place,
Miss *B.* . . . . . of . . . . . ——— Street,
Mrs. *N.* . . . . . of . . . . . ——— Street,
Miss *P.* . . . . . of . . . . . ——— Square,
Mrs. *D. D.* . . . . . of . . . . . ——— Row.

10. That the following alterations be made in the appointments of the Collectors; viz.

1. That Miss *S. C.* be the Colleague of Miss *A. M. W.*, for District 9, in the place of Miss *H.*

2. That Mrs. *S.* be appointed joint Collector for District No. 31, with

Minutes of the Second Committee-Meeting.

Miss *H.* And that these Ladies be requested to make the requisite alterations in their Visiting and Collecting Books.

11. The Minute Secretary having reported, in reference to the 4th Minute, that the village of Oreston has not been included in any of the Associations established in this town and its neighbourhood, and that Mrs. *A.* and Miss *B.* had offered to visit it as Collectors; it was resolved, That the village of Oreston be added to this Association, as District No. 33; and that Mrs. *A.* and Miss *B.* be attached thereto as Collectors. And that the Minute Secretary be requested to furnish them with Visiting and Collecting Books, Collecting Bag, Form of Monthly Report, Bible Subscribers' Cards, and a supply of printed papers for circulation.

12. The Minute Secretary reported, that the Ninth General Rule had been complied with, by the transmittal of a copy of the Rules, signed by the Secretaries, to Miss *J. P.*, Minute Secretary of the Ladies' Branch of the Auxiliary Society.

13. The Treasurer reported, that she had not yet received any money on account of the Association.

14. The Bible Secretary reported, that she had not yet ordered any Bibles or Testaments.

15. The Collectors' Reports having been called for, were presented and severally read; and the Cash Secretary reported, that the amount now received is,

In Free Contributions	£. 36 . 15 . 6
In Subscriptions for Bibles and Testaments . .	3 . 12 . 0
Total .	£. 40 . 7 . 6

16. Resolved, That the said sum of 40*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* be paid over to the Treasurer by the Cash Secretary.

17. That the Treasurer be requested to pay to the Cash Secretary of the Branch Society*, thirty pounds.

18. That the Bible Secretary be requested to order of the Bible Secretary of the Branch Society, Bibles and Testaments, to an amount not exceeding 30*l.*, and of such descriptions as she may consider best calculated for the wants of the subscribers.

19. That the Minute Secretary be requested to apply to the Secretaries of the Branch Society* for 200 copies, monthly, of the "Extracts of Correspondence" of the Parent Society; and that a sufficient number be put in the Collecting Bag of each district, to furnish every Collector, and every annual Free Contributor of half-a-guinea and upwards, with a copy monthly.

20. That a Loan Stock of Testaments, for the temporary supply of the poor, be now established, of which the following shall be the regulations (*See Chap.* VIII. *Section* II.); and that the said stock be under the care of the Bible Secretary, who is requested to order one hundred copies of the Rules, and to send one to each member of the Committee.

21. A collection having been made at the table for the purchase of the Loan Stock, the sum of 5*l.* 15*s.* 10*d.* was contributed, and paid over to the Bible Secretary, who is requested to invest the same in the purchase of Testaments, from the *Auxiliary* Society, at the reduced prices.

22. That a Loan Pica Testament be granted to the Collectors of District No. 2, for the supply of Mary Candler.

* In Associations *not* connected with a Ladies' Branch, and in those conducted by Gentlemen, it will be evident that this application and remittance should be made to the Secretary of the Auxiliary, or Branch, Society with which they are respectively connected.

Observations on the Minutes of the Second Committee-Meeting.

23. That the following Ladies, proposed by the Collectors of District No. 2, be invited by them to join the Committee; viz.:

Miss Jane Goss . . . No. 1, William Street.
Mrs. Walters . . . . No. 6, Ditto ditto.

24. That Mrs. *Y*... and Miss *Z*... be appointed Auditors for the present year; and that all bills be referred to them for examination.

Read over the Minutes, and adjourned.

VII. It will be remarked, that three Gentlemen from the Committee of the Auxiliary Society, and two of the Secretaries of the Ladies' Branch, attended this Committee. Such attendance is highly desirable, and should always be encouraged, as it tends to promote a mutual knowledge of the system, and the maintenance of one uniform mode of proceeding.

VIII. It frequently happens, that alterations, similar to those described in the 10th Minute, take place at the beginning of an Association; and as local convenience, and the wishes of the individual Collectors, should always be consulted, these occasional changes will be found unavoidable. But they should take place as seldom as possible; and the increasing attachment which the Collectors will feel to their districts, will prove the best preventive. *See Observations on No.* V.

IX. Additional districts are often united to an Association, after its establishment, as in the case referred to in the 11th Minute; and where proper persons can be obtained as Collectors, it is highly desirable that the whole of the vicinity should be included. But there is a danger, unless caution and prudence be exercised, in adding to the number of districts before suitable Collectors are obtained. It is at all times a matter of greater importance to consolidate an Association than to extend its limits.

X. In reference to the 13th and 14th Minutes, the Specimens of the Monthly Reports of the Cash and Bible Secretaries (*Nos.* XVII. *and* XX.) will sufficiently explain the nature of these Minutes, at every *subsequent* Committee-meeting.

XI. In order to allow the Cash Secretary time to add up the columns of her receipts, and to prevent the unnecessary protraction of the meeting (which should never exceed *two* hours, and the business of which may, generally, be despatched in *one*), it is usual, at the third, and all subsequent Committee-meetings, to consider the applications for loans, the admission of new members, and any proposed alteration in the appointments of the Collectors, in the interval between the reading of the Collectors' Reports and the reception of the Cash Secretary's Report. *See Specimen of Agenda, No.* XII.

XII. It will be perceived, that the amount reported by the Cash Secretary in the 15th Minute, is the aggregate sum received from

the Collectors at the second Committee-meeting. *See No.* xv. *First Specimen.*

xiii. When it happens that the Collectors of a district omit to present a Monthly Report, the following Resolution should be adopted, and a copy sent to the Collectors; viz.

> "The Collectors of District No. —, not having presented a Report, the Minute Secretary is requested to remind them of the importance of the duty prescribed by the 9th By-Law, and to beg their attention to it in future."

Should this omission occur at two or three Committee-meetings successively, a deputation should be appointed to wait on the Collectors of the district; and if the latter cannot fulfil the duties of their appointment, the books should be transferred to other hands.

xiv. The Minute Secretary should send to the Cash Secretary a duplicate copy of every Resolution authorising a payment: the latter is thus enabled to make the requisite entry in the Cash Book immediately. The copy may be given at the table of the Committee.

xv. The importance of giving free circulation to the "Monthly Extracts of Correspondence" must be evident. These interesting papers are most gratefully received by the Free Contributors; many of whom have increased their annual subscriptions in order to acquire this privilege; which might be beneficially extended to all Free Contributors of *3d. a-week*, 1*s.* a month, and 3*s.* a quarter. In some Associations they are *lent* by the Collectors to the Free Contributors, and pass from hand to hand, like books in a reading society. The gratitude with which they are thus received, and the avidity with which they are read, constitute the best proof of the advantages of this plan.

xvi. As the Bible Secretary is authorised by the Sixth By-Law "to procure Bibles and Testaments when necessary," the repetition of the 18th Minute, in the proceedings of future Committee-meetings, will be unnecessary. It is usually adopted at the first meeting of the Committee, as a guide to the Bible Secretary.

xvii. A reference to Chap. VIII. Section II. will sufficiently explain and illustrate the 20th and 21st Minutes. It will be perceived, that the 22d Minute is founded on the recommendation contained in the Collectors' Monthly Report, No. x. Second Specimen.

xviii. The advantage of reading over the Minutes before the adjournment of the Committee is two-fold:—it enables the Minute Secretary to correct any inaccuracy in the Rough Minute Book; and it affords to all who are present a clear and succinct view of the proceedings.

Minutes of the Committee, in reference to an Annual Meeting.

The preceding Specimen and Observations will, it is hoped, sufficiently elucidate the Minute Book, in reference to all ordinary cases, and to Bible Associations generally. But some additional Resolutions are adopted at the Committee-meetings preceding a Public Distribution, and the Annual Meeting of the Association, or of the Society with which it is connected, to which a more distinct reference is necessary. For the reason already assigned (*See Observations on No.* IX.), the reader is referred to Chap. VIII. Section III. for a transcript of the Resolutions adopted preparatory to a Public Distribution, and every other requisite information on this subject. As the Ladies' Branch of the Plymouth, Plymouth Dock, and Stonehouse, &c. Auxiliary Society, holds its Annual Meeting, and that of all its connected Associations, conjointly with that of the Auxiliary Society, the following Minutes have reference to *this* arrangement: but the mode of proceeding in *other* cases will be explained in the subsequent Observations.

DUPLICATE SPECIMEN OF THE MINUTE BOOK.

Additional Minutes adopted at the Committee-Meetings preceding the Annual Meeting.

At the Monthly Committee-Meeting, held on the 10th of December, after the regular business had been transacted, it was Resolved,—

189. That, pursuant to a recommendation of the Ladies' Branch Society, this Committee hold a Special Meeting on the 17th instant, to make arrangements preparatory to the General Annual Meeting.

190. That the *Treasurer* be requested to submit to the said Special Committee-Meeting, a Statement of the Receipts and Payments to the 17th inst.; signed by the Auditors. That the *Cash* Secretary be requested to prepare a similar account, distinguishing the Free Contributions and Bible Subscriptions. And that the *Bible* Secretary be requested to prepare a statement of the Receipts and Deliveries, distinguishing the Bibles and Testaments issued at and under cost prices.

191. That the *Minute* Secretary, with Mrs. *A.*, Miss *B.*, and Miss *C.*, be requested to prepare and submit to the said Special Committee the draught of a Report to the Branch Society.

At a *Special* Meeting of the Committee, held on the 17th of December—

192. The Treasurer presented her Report, of which the following is an an abstract; viz.

Total Receipts from 10th of July to 17th December . . .	£.150 . 7 . 0
Paid to the Cash Secretary of the Ladies' Branch . .	150 . 0 . 0
Do., to the Cash Secretary, for Incidental Expenses .	0 . 7 . 0
	£.150 . 7 . 0

Minutes of the Committee, in reference to an Annual Meeting.

193. The Bible Secretary presented her Report, of which the following is an abstract; viz.

Received from the Ladies' Branch			166 Bibles, 117 Testaments.
Delivered at cost prices . . .	38 Bs.	26 Ts.	
Under cost prices .	15	8	
Total . .	53	34	
Stock in hand . .	113	83	
		. . 166	—— 117 ——

And that the said Stock is more than sufficient to supply all the Subscribers now on the Books.

194. The Minute Secretary presented the draught of the Annual Report, which having been read, it was resolved,

That the said Report, with the Statements of the Treasurer and Bible Secretary, be received, adopted, and transmitted to the Minute Secretary of the Ladies' Branch Society.

195. The Cash Secretary presented her Annual Summary; by which it appeared, that the Total Receipts have been,

In Free Contributions	£.77. 7.6
In Subscriptions for Bibles and Testaments .	72.19.6
	£.150. 7.0

And that the Balance due to this Association by the Ladies' Branch Society is £.68. 8*s.* 6*d.*

196. Resolved, That the said sum of £.68. 8*s.* 6*d.* be presented to the Ladies' Branch Society, for the general object of the British and Foreign Bible Society. And that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted with the Annual Report.

197. That the following Ladies be the Officers and Committee of this Association for the ensuing year; viz.

Miss *M. F.* . . . Treasurer.
Miss *J. C.* . . . Minute Secretary.
Mr. *A. M. W.* . . Cash Secretary.
Miss *P.* . . . . . Bible Secretary.

Committee:

[*Here follow the Names of the Ladies.*]

And that a copy of this List be transmitted to the Minute Secretary of the Ladies' Branch Society.

198. That the thanks of this Committee be presented to the Mayor, for his kindness in granting the use of the Council Chamber; and that he be respectfully requested to continue the same accommodation during the ensuing year.

OBSERVATIONS ON THE PRECEDING ADDITIONAL MINUTES.

XIX. As the public proceedings of Ladies' Bible Societies are conducted, exclusively, by the Gentlemen of the Auxiliary (or Branch) Committee, it will be evident that the information referred to in the preceding Minutes is transmitted to the Ladies' Branch Society, for the purpose of enabling the latter to prepare a condensed Report of the proceedings and results of all the united Asso-

ciations, which is read at the annual meeting of the Auxiliary Society.*

xx. Of the preceding Minutes, those numbered 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, and 197, are equally applicable to Ladies' Bible Associations which hold their annual meetings independent of those of the Societies with which they are connected; with the following exceptions; viz.

1. In reference to the Minute 194, the Annual Report, including the Cash and Bible statements, should be transmitted to one of the Secretaries of the Auxiliary (or Branch) Society, or to some one of the other Gentlemen deputed by the Committee of that Society, to assist the Ladies, and transact the business.
2. The balance alluded to in the Minute 195, will, of course, be due from the Auxiliary (or Branch) Society; and a corresponding alteration will be necessary in the Minute 196, as well as in those numbered 192 and 193.

XXI. Resolutions similar to the following are also adopted by the Committees of Ladies' Associations which hold their own Annual Meetings, *at least a month previous to such Meeting*; and copies of them are sent to the Secretary of the Auxiliary (or Branch) Society.

1. That the Minute Secretary remind the Committee of the Auxiliary Society, that the next Annual Meeting of this Association will be held on *Monday*, the 30*th December, at* 12 *o'clock*; and request the said Committee to appoint a deputation to engage and fit up the place of meeting, and make the requisite arrangements.
2. That *A. B.* Esq. be invited to preside at the Annual Meeting.
3. That the following Gentlemen be invited to attend and assist in the procedings; viz.

[*Here follow the names.*]

NO. XII.—AGENDA, OR PAPER OF BUSINESS.

This Paper, or Card, is prepared by the Minute Secretary, and laid before the Lady who presides, at every Meeting of the Committee. The several heads are arranged in the order prescribed by the 3d By-Law, and in reference to the Minutes of the preceding Committee Meeting:—thus the following Specimen is a transcript of the Card prepared for the *Second* Meeting, the proceedings of

* The Reader will find this subject amply illustrated in the Annual Reports of the Ladies' Bible Societies of LIVERPOOL, MANCHESTER, and PLYMOUTH, &c. These important and highly interesting publications contain the best evidence of the beneficial tendency and effects of the system.

which constitute the Specimen of the last No., and refers to the Minutes of the first Committee.

SPECIMEN.

COMMITTEE MEETING, 9th July.

1. Read and confirm Minutes of the last Meeting.
2. Call over Members' Names.
3. Business arising out of 3d Minute.
4. Ditto . ditto . ditto . 5th ditto.
5. Village of Oreston not included in the Districts.
6. Report 9th General Rule complied with.
7. Cash Secretary's Monthly Statement.
8. Bible Secretary's Report.
9. Collectors' Reports in order.
10. Cash Secretary's Report.
11. Vote Remittance to Branch Society.
12. Order Bibles and Testaments.
13. Monthly Extracts.
14. Loan Stock, and Collection of Loan Fund.
15. Vote Loans.
16. Admit Ladies, proposed by Collectors, on Committee.
17. Appoint Auditors.
18. New Business.
19. Read over Minutes, and adjourn.

Officers to remain and prepare their Reports to the Ladies' Branch, or fix a time for this purpose.

NO. XIII.—REPORT BOOK.

I. This Book is designed to be a Register of all the information detailed in the Collectors' Monthly Reports, under the head "FACTS and OBSERVATIONS;" in order to record them in a more permanent form, and to exhibit, in one connected series, the results of the Association. It is similar in size to No. XI.; and, like it, has a marginal line, for the purpose of specifying the number of the District, from the Report of which the extract is made.

II. The advantages of this Registry, particularly in preparing the Annual Report, are evident. In these interesting but unobtrusive records, the best evidence of the beneficial tendency of Bible Societies may be found,—here the strongest proofs of a strict adherence to the principles of the Parent Institution are discovered,—and hence the Collectors derive the greatest encouragement to perseverance. It is scarcely possible to peruse, with an unprejudiced mind, the Report Book of a well-conducted Bible Association, without arriving at a clear conviction that these Societies are a national blessing.

Specimen of the Report Book.

III. The Facts and Observations in the following Specimen are selected from the Annual Reports of the Ladies' Societies of Liverpool and Manchester. While they illustrate that part of the system now under consideration, they will afford an interesting and satisfactory evidence, that, whether the seed has been scattered on the banks of the *Tamar*, or on those of the *Mersey* or the *Irwell*, the dews of Heaven have descended upon it, and already produced some prospect of that fruit on which "*the Lord will command his blessing.*"

In some Associations, the "Facts and Observations" of the preceding month are read a second time from the Report Book, at the following Committee-meeting, as part of the minutes to be confirmed. Where time admits, this practice may prove beneficial and encouraging, especially if there be a more numerous attendance of the members. Local convenience will, however, be the best guide, in this and some others of the minor details.

SPECIMEN.

[Supposed to occupy three Pages of the Report Book.]

Committee-Meeting, 10*th September*, 1819.

DISTRICT 3. Upon inquiry why one of the girls in the Caledonian School was behind her class in religious knowledge, the fact was ascertained, that she was the *only* girl in the School whose parents were destitute of the Bible. May we not hope that the day is not distant, when, through the medium of the Bible Society, the children in all our schools, private as well as public, shall be equally well provided?

DIST. 8. The poor continue to subscribe with cheerfulness, and with increased respect and gratitude to the collectors, who have received many applications from districts yet unvisited. We have some gratifying reason to hope that we have been made the means of restoring four unfortunate females to the paths of virtue.

DIST. 15. Our Bible Subscribers, as well as Free Contributors, increase monthly. We have an addition of *forty-four* this month. We frequently find the subscribers waiting for us in the streets; and many give three times as much as when they began.

DIST. 17. The population of this district consists principally of Welsh labourers, and the lower classes of Irish Catholics, of whom by far the greater proportion were found destitute of the Scriptures; yet, with few exceptions, willing to provide themselves, by means of small weekly subscriptions: these have been paid with great regularity, and in general with as much cheerfulness as the collectors received them;—"*their poverty abounding to the riches of their liberality.*"

DIST. 22. We were much affected by the remarks of a man, who has a family of ten children, and who contributes a penny a-week. "I often think," said he, "how pleasant it must be in Heaven, to point out the person who was the cause of my becoming possessed of a Bible; and to say, it was that Lady who first gave me a Bible, and it was that Bible which brought me here!"

Specimen of the Report Book.

DIST. 26. There is a general improvement visible in the conduct of those who have been supplied with Bibles.

The Bible Subscribers in our district, being informed of the deep distress of a family in the neighbourhood, voluntarily united their exertions to furnish their habitation with necessaries. They clothed the whole family, sent the children to school, and invited them to come daily to the house of one of the subscribers, to hear the Scriptures read.

DIST. 30. On our asking a poor woman who had obtained a Bible, by her child's subscribing a penny weekly, how she liked it, she said, "Very much indeed! I return you many thanks for it: had I known what a blessing the Bible was, I should not have been so long without it." Her husband, who was previously a careless and abandoned character, had been carefully reading it, and had never since spent an evening from home. She then exclaimed, "What a mercy, that by a child's paying only a penny a-week, it should become such a blessing to its father!"

Committee-Meeting, 8th of October, 1819.

DIST. 6. About two years ago, Mary M——, an Irishwoman, fifty years of age, applied to one of your collectors to be taught to read. If ever poverty was personified, it was in Mary. Being almost blind, she thankfully received a pair of spectacles, being certain that with these *helps to read* she should soon become a scholar. In consequence of a fall received some months before, she was lame, and unable to earn a shilling. The idea of setting a stitch into her ragged dirty garments had never entered her head. Gratitude for instruction soon, however, induced a change. Mary's natural shrewdness and close application soon enabled her to read the Testament. One very snowy day, with an animated countenance, she entered the school-room on her crutches; and immediately, as her custom was, laid her shoes on the top of the fire to dry. When told that she had better not have come so far through the snow, while so ill, "Aye," said she, "so the neighbours said; and all along by the brick-fields they were at the cellar-heads, laughing at me: but I *shows* 'em the nice Testament, and *tells* 'em they'd have more *raison* to laugh if they could read in it like me." Mary was afterwards absent for some weeks; and her little girl came to the school, with "Mrs. M—'s compliments to Lady ——, and she had been six weeks in the Infirmary; but was getting on finely with her Testament." The teacher called shortly afterwards at her house, to ask if she were better: her husband came to the door, and the little girl at the same moment returned from the Infirmary. "How is your mother?" "A deal better," said the child; "she hopes to be out soon." "What does she do in the Infirmary?" "O, nothing at all, but read in the Testament to herself and the other women: she has read it all through." "That's what she did afore ever she went," said the husband. "She was fond of it then, I suppose: did it do her good, think ye?" "Good!" said he, "aye, nothing pleased her afore; she was grumbling all day: but since she got to reading the Testament, she has been quite content and happy." A few weeks ago Mary returned from the Infirmary; and has since attended the school, comparatively neat and clean, and very thankful. The Testament, which had been lent for eighteen months, and which,

to use her own expressions, she had "read twice through, and all up and down," had not a soiled leaf in it, when, with regret, she took out of it her marriage and other certificates, to exchange it for a large Bible given her by the Branch Committee.

Committee-Meeting, 12th of November, 1819.

DIST. 5. There is a visible improvement, both in the manners of the inhabitants of this district, and the cleanliness of their abodes. We are always welcomed with smiles; and, in general, the money is laid ready for us, and paid with many thanks and blessings for our trouble in calling.

DIST. 8. At the establishment of the Association, we called at the house of a poor woman, who began to subscribe for a Bible for her son—a depraved, wicked man. A short time ago we inquired of her, "Whether her son had benefited by reading the Bible?" She replied, "That he was, in consequence of perusing it, become quite an altered character; that he now went regularly to church; and was become a teacher in a Sunday School."

DIST. 21. The collector, in her first weekly visits, felt much distressed, owing to a number of butchers, who came to sell meat to the poor every Monday morning, completely blockading her way with their carts, and swearing, in the most shocking manner, against "this Bible work." After some time, however, when they saw her coming up the street, if they were in the way, she heard the pleasing address of—"You can pass here, Madam." In a few weeks more they began to wheel their barrows round, that she might pass; and, at length, one of them, remarkable for *drunkenness* and *swearing*, said to his companion, "Come now, she deserves encouragement, she comes so regularly; she *shall* have something. Here, Mistress, you shall have threepence a-week from me."—An old subscriber, hearing this, observed, "Yes, Samuel; but the lady will not talk to you, if you are drunk when she comes." On which he said, he would try to keep sober till after she had been: and the collector has great pleasure in stating, that he has kept his word ever since; nor has she heard *one* oath among them.—In addition to the above, the collector can bear her further testimony to the continued improvement of Samuel; as the money formerly appropriated to the indulgence of his pernicious habits is now carefully saved for the purpose of supporting an aged mother.

DIST. 24. Being earnestly solicited to call at the house of two poor widows, residing in an unvisited district, we did so, and received their names as Bible Subscribers. One of them, a most interesting woman, very far advanced in years, told us, while the tears trickled down her cheeks, that she was most anxious to receive a Bible, that she might leave it as a parting gift to her grandson. She hoped a blessing would always attend the collectors in their weekly visits; "for the Ladies' Bible Association was the best thing for the poor that had ever been thought of."

NO. XIV.—SPECIAL COMMITTEE SUMMONS.

In order to secure the punctual attendance of the members at the *regular* Monthly Committee-meetings, it is very desirable that no *extraordinary* sittings be held, except when really necessary. That

such meetings are occasionally requisite, the instance adduced in the Duplicate Specimen of No. XI. is a sufficient evidence; and it is obvious that other circumstances may occur to render them expedient. These Notices are issued by the Minute Secretary; and should be delivered, if possible, two or three days previous to that appointed for the meeting, the precise object of which should always be specified.

SPECIMEN.

CHARLES' LADIES' BIBLE ASSOCIATION.

MADAM, Plymouth, 13*th* of *Dec.* 1819.

A SPECIAL Meeting of the COMMITTEE will be held on *Friday* next, the 17*th* of *December*, at *Eleven* o'clock precisely, *for the purpose of taking into consideration a communication from the Ladies' Branch, and making the requisite arrangements for the Annual Meeting*; when the favour of your attendance is requested.

J. C. . . . . Minute Secretary.

The Books and Papers appertaining to the department of the CASH Secretary, are—

NO. XV.—THE CASH BOOK.

I. This book is designed to contain *all* the pecuniary transactions of the Association, and should be used exclusively for this purpose. It is ruled in different forms, in order that the several accounts may be kept in the most clear and convenient manner. In some Associations, the cash account with the Auxiliary or Branch Society is kept by the *Bible* Secretary, and a few pages of her book are ruled for this purpose. But such a plan is alike inconvenient and unnecessary, and has been productive of injurious effects in several instances. The duties of the Bible Secretary are distinct and specific, and have no reference to the pecuniary concerns of the Society.

II. A blank page is left, at the beginning of the Cash Book, for an Index to the several accounts, of which the following is a transcript:

INDEX.

	Folio.
Monthly Receipts from the Collectors, &c.	1
Treasurer's Account with the Association	101
Account with the Ladies' Branch Society*	121
Account of Incidental Expenses	141
Annual Summary of Receipts and Expenditure . . .	181

III. It will be recollected, that the Association selected as an example, is supposed to have been established in June, and that its first regular Monthly Committee-meeting was held on the 9th of

* Or "with the Auxiliary Society," or "Branch Society."

July. But local circumstances rendering it desirable that the Annual General Meetings of the Society with which it is connected shall be held in December, the accounts in all the following Specimens are made up to that period. The *first* "Annual Report" of this Association consequently embraces half a year; but its *subsequent* Reports and Statements will of course include the full period of twelve months.

IV. In some Associations, the *Cash* Secretary deducts the amount of incidental expenses from the money paid in by the Collectors, and hands over the balance to the Treasurer. This plan is attended with many disadvantages, and is inconsistent with the strict letter of the 5th Rule of the Association, which specifically states, that the whole of the contributions shall be paid to the Treasurer. The following mode is, therefore, respectfully but strongly recommended, not only as being more consonant with the regulation alluded to, but as being the more simple, and attended with the least trouble. The Cash Secretary furnishes a quarterly account of Incidental Expenses (*See Fourth Specimen*), which is discharged by the Treasurer, after a regular Resolution of the Committee to that effect.

V. As the whole of the heading of each account cannot, with propriety, be printed, for the reasons already assigned in reference to the Collecting Book, the Cash Secretary should insert the parts printed in Italics. The whole of the books are so prepared, as to save trouble, as far as possible, to the Officers and Collectors.

VI. The FIRST SPECIMEN exhibits the original entry of the aggregate Monthly Collections, and forms the basis of all the subsequent accounts and calculations. Particular care should therefore be taken, that the sums are correctly and legibly inserted, and that the additions are checked by the Bible Secretary. The *first* half of the Cash Book should be ruled according to this pattern, as the statement of the original receipts should precede every other account. In this Specimen the receipts of *two* months only are exhibited, as being sufficient to illustrate the system; but the Cash Book is so constructed as to contain the entries of *six* months on each double folio.

VII. The Association in question embraces a population of about 10,000, and was originally divided into thirty-two districts, to which six others have been subsequently added. As, however, the Specimen is a complete transcript of the Cash Book, it will be evident that the Monthly Receipts of an Association divided into thirty-two, or any smaller number of Districts, may be entered on one folio instead of two. Blanks may be left between the last District No. and the "Visitors," for any Districts which may be hereafter added to the Association.

VIII. The *names* of the VISITORS (*See Observation* I. *on the By-Laws, Section* III.) being inserted in the list of the Committee, in the Minute Book, their No. only, in order of admission, is entered here. Their collecting books and bags are inscribed accordingly.

IX. The word "*Collection*" refers to the contributions received at the doors, at the close of the General Meetings; which, of course, should be entered under the head of "Free," as reported and paid in by the *Cash* Secretary, at the Committee succeeding such General Meeting.

X. A reference to the Observations on No. VI. will explain the meaning of the words "*Bible Secretary's Transfers*," at the foot of this Specimen; and will likewise shew that this entry is unnecessary where two or more Associations are not connected under one Auxiliary or Branch Society.

XI. It will be perceived that the Collectors of District No. 10 did not present any report to the Committee-meeting in August. In this case it became the duty of the Minute Secretary to send them a copy of the Resolution transcribed in Observation XIII. on No. XI. The importance of regular and correct Monthly Reports cannot be too strongly enforced; and nothing more decisively indicates the decline of an Association, than inattention to this duty. Many causes may prevent the personal attendance of a Collector at a Committee-meeting—though this is always to be deplored: but it is difficult to imagine a case of inability to send her report and bag to one of her Colleagues, or to the Secretaries.

XII. The SECOND SPECIMEN is little more than a duplicate of the account in the TREASURER's Book (*No.* XXII.); but the advantages of such a duplicate are evident, not only in case of the Treasurer's absence, but because the Cash Secretary should always possess an accurate knowledge of the state of the funds belonging to the Association. It will be perceived, that the entries on the debit side of this account are the respective monthly aggregate receipts from the district collectors. Some Associations open another account, with the "Cash Secretary:" but this additional trouble is rendered wholly unnecessary, by the separation of the "Free Contributions," and "Bible Subscriptions," as in this Specimen. The only account required with the Cash Secretary is that of "Incidental Expenses;" as she pays over *the whole* of the Monthly Receipts to the Treasurer, at her earliest convenience after every Committee-meeting.

XIII. The THIRD SPECIMEN is a duplicate of the account which is kept by the Cash Secretary of the Ladies' Branch Society.* The advantages of it are similar to those just adverted to. By adding together the Monthly Balances in the hands of the Treasurer, and of the Branch Society, the state of the funds of the Association is instantly ascertained. It will be observed, by the last entry on the credit side of this account, that the Committee, at the meeting immediately preceding the Annual Meeting, voted *the whole* of the balance then standing at their credit to the Branch Society, "for

* Or, in reference to Associations *not* thus connected, by the Secretaries of the Auxiliary (or Branch) Society.

the general object of the British and Foreign Bible Society;" having previously ascertained, by the Report of the Bible Secretary, that the stock of Bibles and Testaments on hand was adequate to the supply of all the subscribers then on the books. This, the author would respectfully submit, is an example worthy of imitation; and he gladly embraces this opportunity, of bearing his feeble testimony to the liberality and zeal of the numerous Ladies' Bible Associations which have thus contributed to the funds, and increased the usefulness of the Parent Institution. Amongst these, the Associations of COLCHESTER, SOUTHWARK, SOUTHAMPTON, READING, POOLE, WESTMINSTER, LIVERPOOL, EDINBURGH, EXETER, PLYMOUTH, and HACKNEY,* with several of minor importance, demand honourable mention; and, if many others have not *yet* found themselves at liberty to transmit a portion of their funds for the same great object, it is because their local necessities have required a more exclusive appropriation of them. In proportion as these wants shall be supplied, so will their interest in the general and foreign object of the Society be manifested; and it should never be forgotten, that the *primary* claim on Bible Associations is urged from the habitations of *our own destitute poor*. Let these, then, be *first* supplied; let the heavenly beam, reflected from the sacred page, irradiate the cottages of our native land: but let it still be remembered, that the smallest Bible Association is a constituent part of that Society, whose field of labour is THE WORLD; and that the light of Revelation must shine on "*the dark places of the earth*," and illuminate every shore of every land, before its object shall be accomplished.

XIV. The account, of which the FOURTH SPECIMEN is a transcript, is made up quarterly. The Cash Secretary presents a copy of the Dr. side to the Committee; and a Resolution similar to the following is adopted; viz:—

"That the Treasurer be requested to pay to the Cash Secretary the sum of 3*s*. 6*d*., being the amount of her disbursements for the Association during the last three months."

XV. The advantages of the Summary, which constitutes the FIFTH SPECIMEN, are evident, especially in reference to the Annual Report of the Association, and as exhibiting at one view its comparative advance or declension. As this Association is supposed to have been established in June, and to hold its Annual Meetings in December, blanks are necessarily left opposite to the first six months, in this summary, which will be avoided in future.

*** A few blank pages are left at the end of the Cash Book, for any remarks or additional statements that the Cash Secretary may wish to make.

* It would be unjust to omit stating, that the HACKNEY Ladies' Association, established in July 1818, has already contributed *three hundred and fifty pounds* in aid of the general purposes of the Parent Institution, besides expending *two hundred* pounds in supplying the local wants of the holy scriptures.

FIRST SPECIMEN
OF THE
Cash Book.

MONTHLY RECEIPTS FROM THE DISTRICT COLLECTORS.

[To occupy from Folio 1 to Folio 100.]

District.	Committee, 9*th* of *July*.			Committee, 13*th* of *August*.		
	Free.	Bibles.	Total.	Free.	Bibles.	Total.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
1.	1. 5.10	. 2. 0	1. 7.10	1. 0. 5	.10. 7	1.11. 0
2.	2.18. 4	. 0. 7	2.18.11	. 4. 0	.10. 9	.14. 9
3.	1. 2. 0	. 1. 4	1. 3. 4	. 0. 0	. 6. 5	. 6. 5
4.	1. 3. 6	. 1. 8	1. 5. 2	. 2. 9	. 5. 0	. 7. 9
5.	1.15. 8	. 0. 4	1.16. 0	.12.10	. 0. 0	.12.10
6.	. 0. 6	. 1.11	. 2. 5	. 5. 3	. 2. 2	. 7. 5
7.	. 1. 4	. 1. 3	. 2. 7	. 3. 0	. 4. 3	. 7. 3
8.	2.13. 2	. 9.11	3. 3. 1	. 7. 7	. 3. 0	.10. 7
9.	3.15. 8	. 0.11	3.16. 7	. 5. 0	. 4.10	. 9.10
10.	.18. 2	. 2. 4	1. 0. 6	. 0. 0	. 0. 0	. 0. 0
11.	1. 1. 6	. 1. 4	1. 2.10	. 3. 7	.12. 6	.16. 1
12.	1.16. 4	. 1. 3	1.17. 7	. 3. 3	. 1. 9	. 5. 0
13.	.12.10	. 2. 2	.15. 0	. 4. 4	. 3. 2	. 7. 6
14.	2. 0. 2	. 0.10	2. 1. 0	. 1. 4	. 3. 9	. 5. 1
15.	.10. 2	. 0.11	.11. 1	. 6. 6	. 3. 5	. 9.11
16.	1.13. 6	. 5. 2	1.18. 8	. 0. 6	. 7. 9	. 8. 3
17.	. 8. 7	. 0. 1	. 8. 8	. 6.10	. 0. 2	. 7. 0
18.	.16. 6	. 5. 4	1. 1.10	. 4.10	. 8. 5	.13. 3
19.	1. 2. 4	. 0. 4	1. 2. 8	.19. 5	. 2. 0	1. 1. 5
20.	5. 0. 8	. 5. 5	5. 6. 1	1.11. 1	. 4. 0	1.15. 1
21.	.11. 4	. 2. 6	.13.10	. 2. 4	.10. 7	.12.11
22.	. 3. 8	. 3. 0	. 6. 8	. 4. 8	.10. 4	.15. 0
23.	.16.10	. 3. 0	.19.10	. 4. 6	.10. 1	.14. 7
24.	1.13. 9	. 0. 3	1.14. 0	. 2. 4	. 1. 3	. 3. 7
25.	. 0. 0	. 1. 3	. 1. 3	. 0. 4	. 3.11	. 4. 3
26.	. 2.11	. 2. 6	. 5. 5	. 2. 2	. 8. 9	.10.11
27.	. 0. 8	. 1.11	. 2. 7	.10. 5	.15. 5	1. 5.10
28.	. 0. 6	. 3. 9	. 4. 3	. 0. 3	. 4. 6	. 4. 9
29.	. 5. 2	. 0. 8	. 5.10	. 0. 3	. 1. 8	. 1.11
30.	1.18. 3	. 7. 0	2. 5. 3	. 1. 5	. 4. 4	. 5. 9
31.	. 5. 6	. 0. 7	. 6. 1	. 1. 0	. 3. 2	. 4. 2
32.	. 0. 2	. 0. 6	. 0. 8	. 2. 3	. 2. 0	. 4. 3
Visitor No. 1.	. .	. .	. .	. 9. 8	. .	. 9. 8
Visitor No. 2.						
Bible Sec'y's Transfers						
Collection . .						
Total . .	36.15. 6	3.12. 0	40. 7. 6	9. 4. 1	8. 9.11	17.14. 0

Second Specimen of the CASH BOOK.

SECOND SPECIMEN OF THE **Cash Book.**

THE TREASURER'S ACCOUNT WITH THE ASSOCIATION.

[To occupy from Folio 101 to Folio 120.]

101

Dr. The Treasurer, in account with the *Charles'* Association. Cr.

1819.		£. s. d.	1819.		£. s. d.
10 *July*	*To Cash ... Free ..*	36. 15. 6	11 *July*	*By Payment to Branch*	30. 0. 0
	For Bibles ..	3. 12. 0	31 ...	*Balance in hand ..*	10. 7. 6
	£.	40. 7. 6		£.	40. 7. 6
31 ...	*Balance in hand ..*	10. 7. 6	31 *Aug.*	*Balance in hand ..*	28. 1. 6
16 *Aug.*	*Cash ... Free ..*	9. 4. 1			
	For Bibles ..	8. 9. 11			
	£.	28. 1. 6		£.	28. 1. 6
31 ...	*Balance in hand ..*	28. 1. 6	13 *Sept.*	*Payment to Branch*	50. 0. 0
11 *Sept.*	*Cash ... Free ..*	11. 19. 2		*Do. to Cash Secretary*	. 3. 6
	For Bibles ..	19. 18. 1	30 ...	*Balance in hand ..*	9. 15. 3
	£.	59. 18. 9		£.	59. 18. 9
30 ...	*Balance in hand ..*	9. 15. 3	11 *Oct.*	*Payment to Branch*	25. 0. 0
8 *Oct.*	*Cash ... Free ..*	5. 7. 1	31 ...	*Balance in hand ..*	1. 8. 0
	For Bibles ..	11. 5. 8			
	£.	26. 8. 0		£.	26. 8. 0
31 ...	*Balance in hand ..*	1. 8. 0	16 *Nov.*	*Payment to Branch*	27. 0. 0
12 *Nov.*	*Cash ... Free ..*	9. 8. 9	30 ...	*Balance in hand ..*	1. 13. 9
	For Bibles ..	17. 17. 0			
	£.	28. 13. 9		£.	28. 13. 9
30 ...	*Balance in hand ..*	1. 13. 9	11 *Dec.*	*Payment to Branch*	18. 0. 0
10 *Dec.*	*Cash ... Free ..*	4. 12. 11	17 ...	*Do. to Cash Secretary*	. 3. 6
	For Bibles ..	11. 16. 10			
	£.	18. 3. 6		£.	18. 3. 6

17*th December*, 1819—
Called over with the Treasurer's Book, and found correct.

W. Y.
A. Z. } *Auditors.*

Third Specimen of the CASH BOOK.

THIRD SPECIMEN
OF THE
Cash Book.

*THE ACCOUNT BETWEEN THE ASSOCIATION AND THE LADIES' BRANCH SOCIETY.

[To occupy from Folio 121 to Folio 140.]

121

D^r. The *Ladies' Branch of the Plymouth, &c.* Auxiliary Society. C^r.

1819.		£. s. d	1819.		£. s. d.
11 *July*	*To Cash & Treasurer*	30. 0.0	14 *July*	*By Bibles, &c. as & Invoice, No. 1.*	27. 6.0
				Balance	2.14.0
	£.	30. 0.0		£.	30. 0.0
31 ...	*Balance due*	2 .14.0	31 *Aug.*	*Balance due*	2.14 0
31 *Aug.*	*Balance due*	2 .14.0	14 *Sept.*	*Bibles, &c. as & Invoice, No. 2.*	1..5.7
13 *Sept.*	*Cash & Treasurer*	50. 0.0	16 ...	*Ditto & Ditto, No. 3.*	.11.6
			20 ...	*Ditto & Ditto, No. 4.*	7.16.7
			30 ...	*Balance due*	43. 0.4
	£.	52.14.0		£.	52.14.0
30 ...	*Balance due*	43. 0.4	16 *Oct.*	*Bibles, &c. as & Invoice, No. 5.*	6. 9.0
11 *Oct.*	*Cash & Treasurer*	25. 0.0	23 ...	*Ditto & Ditto, No. 6.*	0. 6.8
			31 ...	*Balance due*	61. 4.8
	£.	68. 0.4		£.	68. 0.4
31 ...	*Balance due*	61. 4.8	19 *Nov*	*Bibles, &c. as & Invoice, No. 7.*	20. 5.9
16 *Nov.*	*Cash & Treasurer*	27. 0.0	26 ...	*Ditto & Ditto, No. 8.*	17.10.5
			30 ...	*Balance due*	50. 8.6
	£.	88. 4.8		£.	88. 4.8
30 ...	*Balance due*	50. 8.6	17 *Dec.*	*Vote for Genl. Object of British and For. Bible Society* .	68. 8.6
11 *Dec.*	*Cash & Treasurer*	18. 0.0			
	£.	68. 8.6		£.	68. 8.6

17*th December*, 1819—
Examined and found correct.

W. Y. } *Auditors.*
A. Z. }

* In other Bible Associations, this account will be between the Association and the Auxiliary (or Branch) Society with which it is connected.

FOURTH SPECIMEN
OF THE
Cash Book.

THE CASH SECRETARY'S ACCOUNT OF INCIDENTAL EXPENSES.

[To occupy from Folio 141 to Folio 180.]

141

D^r. The Cash Secretary of the *Charles'* Bible Association. Cr.

1819.		£. s. d.	1819.		£. s. d.
13 *Sept.*	*Received from Treasurer & Vote of Committee*	0.3.6	4 *July*	*Postage*	0.0. 6
			11 ...	*Messenger*	0.0. 8
			12 *Aug.*	*Paper and Pens*	0.1. 4
			10 *Sept.*	*Gratuity to Servant for cleaning Committee-Room*	0.1. 0
		0.3.6			0.3. 6
17 *Dec.*	*Received from Treasurer & Vote of Committee*	0.3.6	1 *Oct.*	*Paid for new Collecting Bags*	0.1. 4
			8 ...	*Postage*	0.0. 4
			11 *Nov.*	*Porterage of Parcel*	0.0.10
			10 *Dec.*	*Gratuity to Servant*	0.1. 0
		0.3.6			0.3. 6

*** It will readily be perceived, that this account does not include the Incidental Expenses attending the *establishment* of the Association, for books, papers, &c. These were defrayed by the AUXILIARY Society; and the author respectfully recommends a similar mode of proceeding in all such cases. This judicious and well-timed liberality relieves the funds of the infant Association, and strengthens the bonds which unite it to its immediate Parent Institution.

But it should be distinctly understood, that this act of liberality cannot be repeated; and that all *subsequent* expenses must be defrayed out of the regular funds of the Association, the Committee of which should be early taught to depend on their own resources exclusively.

FIFTH SPECIMEN
OF THE
Cash Book.

ANNUAL SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE.

[To occupy from Folio 181 to Folio 190.]

181 ANNUAL SUMMARY.

1819. Months.	AMOUNT RECIEVED. Free Contributions.			For Bibles & Testaments.			Total.			Amount paid to the * Branch.			Amount of Bibles, &c. received.			Amount voted for General Object.			Amount of Incidental Expenses		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
January																					
February																					
March																					
April																					
May																					
June																					
July	36	15	6	3	12	0	40	7	6	30	0	0	27	6	0						
August	9	4	1	8	9	11	17	14	0												
September	11	19	2	19	18	1	31	17	3	50	0	0	9	13	8				0	3	
October	5	7	1	11	5	8	16	12	9	25	0	0	6	15	8						
November	9	8	9	17	17	0	27	5	9	27	0	0	37	16	2						
December	4	12	11	11	16	10	16	9	9	18	0	0				68	8	6	0	3	
	77	7	6	72	19	6	150	7	0	150	0	0	81	11	6	68	8	6	0	7	

Total Amount received this Year, as above . . . . . £. 150 . 7 . 0
D°. paid this Year . . . . . 150 . 7 . 0

17*th December*, 1819.
Examined, and found correct. *W. Y.* } *Auditors.*
A. Z. }

* Or, in other Associations, to the Auxiliary (or Branch) Society, with which they are respectively connected.

Observations on the FREE CONTRIBUTORS' BOOK.

NO. XVI.—FREE CONTRIBUTORS' BOOK.

I. In this Book is inserted the name of every individual who contributes, either by donation or periodical subscription, to the funds of the Association, without requiring a Bible or Testament. The advantages of keeping such a register, distinct from that of the Bible Subscribers, are sufficiently evident.

II. It is not necessary to *page* this book. The Nos. should be continued uninterruptedly throughout: thus, the first No. on the second page of the book from which this Specimen is extracted, is 27. By this plan the Cash Secretary has only to look at the last entry, in order to ascertain the *total* number of free contributors since the establishment of the Association. To know the precise number at any given period, it is only necessary to subtract from the No. of the last entry, the number of those who have declined, removed, and been transferred; and the remainder is the answer required.

III. It sometimes happens, that individuals among the labouring classes, either from not having had the term "*free*" clearly explained to them, or from a subsequent change of mind, wish to receive a Bible or Testament, although they have been entered as free contributors. All such cases are specified by the Collectors in their Monthly Reports; and they are then "transferred to the Bible Secretary," as in the instance No. 22 in this Specimen. These cases are of unfrequent occurrence, especially where the Bible Subscribers' Cards have been introduced; but they should always be met by the most prompt and cheerful acquiescence on the part of the Collectors.

IV. The blanks under the year 1820, opposite to Nos. 20 and 23, are left, because the Collectors of the Districts Nos. 2 and 3 have not reported whether these contributors continue their support. When this information shall be furnished, and the rate of subscription specified, the requisite entries will be made.

V. This Specimen only contains the entries of two years; but the Free Contributors' Book is calculated to contain those of *six* years. The figures denoting the year are inserted by the Cash Secretary.

VI. The advantages attendant on a quarterly examination of the books, by calling them over with the Collectors, are so numerous and evident, that it seems only necessary to allude to them. In a well-organized Committee, the entries of the preceding three months may be called over within an hour: and it is respectfully, but earnestly submitted, that the appropriation of four hours annually, to ensure the regularity of the accounts, and correct any inadvertence, cannot be a misapplication of the time.—*See Observation* VIII. *on No.* II.

Free Contributors' Book.

SPECIMEN.

No.	Began to subscribe.	Contributors' Names.	No. of district.	1819. Contribution. Sort.	1819. Contribution. Amount. £. s. d.	1820. Contribution. Sort.	1820. Contribution. Amount. £. s. d.
1.	*July* 5.	*Mrs. E. Williamson*....	1	*A.*	1. 1. 0	*A.*	1. 1. 0
2.	....	*Master W. Saules*.....	..	*W.*	 2	*W.*	 2
3.	....	*J. W. Hilles*.....	..	*W.*	 1	*W.*	 1
4.	....	*C. W. Hilles*.....	..	*W.*	 1	*W.*	 1
5.	....	*J. D. Hilles*	..	*W.*	 1	*W.*	 1
6.	....	*Mrs. Done*	..	*W.*	 1	*W.*	 1
7.	....	*Mrs. Berberd*.....	..	*Q.*	.. 1. 1	*Q.*	. 1. 1
8.	....	*Master E. Wells*.....	..	*W.*	 1	*W.*	 1
9.	....	*Master V. Wells*.....	..	*W.*	 1	*W.*	 1
10.	....	*Mrs. Davidsoll*	..	*W.*	 1	*W.*	 1
11.	....	*Mrs. Norcots*	..	*W.*	 1	*W.*	 1
12.	....	*Mr. B. Denshaw*.....	..	*W.*	 1	*W.*	 1
13.	....	*Mrs. H. Denshaw*.....	..	*W.*	 1	*W.*	 1
14.	....	*Master J. Denshaw*	..	*W.*	 1	*W.*	 1
15.	....	*Mrs. Smithers*	..	*W.*	 4	*W.*	 1
16.	....	*Mrs. Reedeer*.....	..	*W.*	 6	*Declined.*	
17.	....	*Captain Owen*	2	*A.*	2. 2. 0	*A.*	2. 2. 0
18.	....	*Daniel Goss*.....	..	*Q.*	.. 4. 0	*A.*	1. 1. 0
19.	....	*Henry Walters*	..	*M.*	 6	*M.*	 6
20.	....	*William Hatton*	..	*Q.*	.. 1. 6	...	....
21.	....	*Eliza Bacon*	..	*D.*	..10. 0	*A.*	1. 0. 0
22.	....	*John Heel*.....	..	*W.*	 4	*Transferred to Bible Secretary.*	
23.	....	*Hannah Jollings*	3	*A.*	1. 1. 0	..	....
24.	....	*Miss J. Denshaw*	..	*W.*	 1	*W.*	 1
25.	....	*Mary Hubbard*.....	..	*W.*	 2	*M.*	. 1. 0
26.	....	*Charles Newman*.....	..	*M.*	.. . 10	*A.*	. 10. 6

NO. XVII.—CASH SECRETARY'S MONTHLY STATEMENT.

I. This statement should be presented to every Committee-meeting, immediately after the Minutes of the preceding meeting have been disposed of, and before the Report of the Bible Secretary is called for. The paper on which the form is printed is about the same size as the Specimen. When the Cash Secretary has filled in the several returns, she procures the Treasurer's signature to the statement.

II. As it would be impossible for the Cash Secretary to include the money received, and the particulars reported by the Collectors, in the *current* month, this statement is made up without any reference to *these* particulars, and is a Report of the funds, &c. of the Association on the day preceding the Committee-meeting. It will be perceived that the returns, Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5, are extracted from the "Annual Summary;" No. 6, from the account with the "Ladies' Branch;" and No. 7, from the "Treasurer's" account in the "Cash Book;" and that the answers under the remaining heads are supplied by the "Free Contributors' Book." As the statement, of which this Specimen is a transcript, was delivered previous to the first Annual Meeting of the Association, the returns to Nos. 1 and 2, and to Nos. 4 and 5, are respectively the same amount. It is scarcely necessary to observe, that this will not be the case *after* the first Annual Meeting.

III. The advantages to be derived from this Monthly Statement are numerous. It serves as a general check to all the accounts, as well as to the Collectors' Reports; is a guide to the Committee with respect to votes for the general object; and gratifies the members, by a clear and correct view of the state of their Association.

*** In Associations not connected with a Ladies' Branch, the term "Auxiliary (or Branch) Society" is inserted by the Cash Secretary.

Specimen of the CASH SECRETARY'S MONTHLY STATEMENT.

Cash Secretary's Monthly Statement.

SPECIMEN.

Charles' LADIES' BIBLE ASSOCIATION.

CASH SECRETARY'S Monthly Statement; presented 10*th* of *December*, 1819.

STATE OF THE ASSOCIATION ON THE 9*th* OF *December*, 1819.

	£. s. d.	Total. £. s. d.
1. Amount received this Year:—		
In free Contributions	72 . 14 . 7	
Subscriptions for Bibles, &c.	61 . 2 . 8	
		133 . 17 . 3
2. Amount received since the establishment:—		
In free Contributions	72 . 14 . 7	
Subscriptions for Bibles, &c.	61 . 2 . 8	
		133 . 17 . 3
Amount paid to *Ladies' Branch*—		
3. Since the last Committee		27 . 0 . 0
4. Since the last Annual Meeting		132 . 0 . 0
5. Since the establishment		132 . 0 . 0
6. Balance now due by the *Ladies' Branch*		50 . 8 . 6
7. Balance now in the Treasurer's hands		1 . 13 . 9
Total due to the Association		52 . 2 . 3

8.	Total Number of Free Contributors since the establishment . .		478
9.	Number of those who have declined	12	
10.	Number of those who have removed	6	
11.	Number transferred to Bible Secretary	3	
12.	*Number transferred by Tickets	10	31
13.	Number now contributing		447

M. F. . . . . TREASURER.
A. M. W. . CASH SECRETARY.

* Where the plan of "Transfer Tickets" is not adopted, this head should be omitted.

Observations on the BIBLE BOOK.

The following are the Books, &c. which belong to the BIBLE Secretary's department.

NO. XVIII.—BIBLE BOOK.

I. As the "Cash Book" is exclusively appropriated to the pecuniary transactions of the Association, so the "BIBLE BOOK" is designed to concentrate all the requisite information, and statements, relative to the receipt and delivery of Bibles and Testaments; for which purpose, alone, it should be used. Like the "Cash Book," it is ruled in different forms, the respective intents of which will be illustrated by the Specimens subjoined.

II. It has already been respectfully recommended, that the duties of the Cash and Bible Secretaries should be kept *entirely distinct*. Considerable inconvenience has arisen from introducing one of the Cash Accounts into the "Bible Book," the object of which is totally different; and as the simplicity of the plan, and its adaptation to the end designed, constitute its only merit, whatever tends to a contrary effect, by giving additional trouble to the Secretaries, should be carefully avoided. For the same reason, as well as to prevent a considerable and unavoidable waste of paper, it is recommended, that neither this Book, nor the "Free Contributors' Book," be cut alphabetically (as is the case in some Associations), but that the names be entered precisely as they stand in the Collectors' Monthly Reports. The FIRST SPECIMEN will more fully illustrate the subject.

III. As it is from this Book that the Bible Secretary makes up the Monthly Report of Receipts, Deliveries, Stock in hand, &c., it should be always kept posted. This duty may be *easily* fulfilled in one hour monthly, after the commencement of an Association, provided attention be paid to the hints now submitted. The Observation v. on No. XVI. is equally applicable here.

IV. The FIRST SPECIMEN will explain the purpose to which the greater part of this book is appropriated;—that of a Register of all the individuals who subscribe for Bibles and Testaments, with every requisite information relative to their supply. The numbers should be continued uninterruptedly: thus the first number on the second page is 27. In order to ascertain the total number of subscribers for Bibles and Testaments since the establishment, it is only necessary to look at the number of the last entry; and by subtracting from such number, the number of those who have declined, and been transferred, and supplied, the precise number of subscribers at any given period is immediately known.

V. It will be evident, that the entries in the three first columns, after the numbers, are copied from the Collectors' Monthly Reports; those in the remaining columns are inserted at the time the Bible or Testament is delivered, and are transcribed from the Check or Ticket given by the Collector to the Subscriber, and presented by the latter to the Bible Secretary. These entries should always be made *before* the Bible or Testament is delivered. The subscribers Nos. 1, 2, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, and 24, not having yet completed their subscriptions, blanks are left opposite to their names in the last three columns.

VI. This Association adopts the plan of public distribution;

consequently, all the Bibles and Testaments specified were delivered on the same day, with the exception of Nos. 3, 23, and 25;—the first a sailor, going on a voyage, who paid up his subscription, and was immediately supplied; the last a servant-maid, about to leave the town: and the circumstances attending No. 23, have been already detailed in the observations on No. VIII. It will be observed, that all the subscribers entered in this Specimen paid the *cost* price for their Bibles and Testaments, except Nos. 5 and 13. One of these was out of work, and offered to become a *free* contributor when she got a situation: the other was a widow, with a large family, destitute of the Scriptures, and extremely anxious to possess them.

VII. It will be found to save considerable trouble to the Bible Secretary, and facilitate the preparation of the Monthly Report, if the letter *C* be annexed to the names of those subscribers who pay the cost prices, as in this Specimen.

VIII. About twenty folios at the end of the book are ruled according to the SECOND SPECIMEN; the design of which will be now explained. With every parcel of Bibles and Testaments, the Bible Secretary should receive a regular Invoice or Bill of Parcels (*See Specimen C, page* 183), which she should immediately compare with the books, and examine the calculations.—If all be correct, she should fold and indorse it, inscribing the number in large characters, to promote facility of reference. If any error be detected, the invoice should be immediately returned to the Secretary or Depositary from whom it was received, that it may be rectified.

IX. Each description of Bible and Testament should be carefully kept distinct; and if the Bible Secretary be not well acquainted with the various sorts, it may save her some trouble, as well as prevent errors, if she have one copy of each kind marked, inside the cover, to which she may refer. Many Bible Secretaries mark in pencil *every* copy they receive, with the letters which denote the description.

X. Having placed the Bibles and Testaments in the Depository, the Bible Secretary should *immediately* enter the particulars on the "RECEIVED" side of this account; and marking the Invoice "*Entered*," with her initials, transmit it to her colleague, the *Cash* Secretary, who enters the amount to the credit of the Ladies' Branch Society,* and files the invoice.

XI. It will be remarked, that the "Deliveries" are entered monthly, so as to exhibit the actual state of the Depository on the day preceding every Committee-meeting. The Bible Secretary should have two files, or two divisions in the drawer appropriated to the tickets; one labelled "Delivery Tickets," and the other "Delivery Tickets *this month*." When the Bible Secretary makes up her Monthly Report, the latter should be added to the former.

Blank columns are left for the insertion of the receipts and delivery of Bibles and Testaments in foreign languages, or in the Welch, Gaelic, Irish, or Manks; and the Bible Secretary inserts the appropriate heading where necessary. The comparative infrequency of such issues by English Bible Associations precludes the necessity of leaving more space for their insertion.

* Or Auxiliary (or Branch) Society.

FIRST SPECIMEN

OF THE

Bible Book.

LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS FOR BIBLES AND TESTAMENTS.

[To occupy from Folio 1 to Folio 160.]

No.	Began to subscribe.	Subscribers' Names.		District.	Sort of Bible.	Sort of Test.	When supplied.	Price paid.
	1819.							*s. d.*
1.	5 *July.*	*Betsey Harven*		1				
2.	....	*Elizabeth Taylor* ..		..				
3.	....	*Richard Bryand*...	*C.*	..	*S.P.*		12 *Aug.*	11. 6
4.	....	*Mark Snelling*	*C.*	..	*S.P.*		15 *Oct.*	11. 6
5.	....	*Susan Dunster*		..		*P.C.*	....	4. 0
6.	....	*Jane Lucome*	*C.*	..	*M.P.*		....	5.10
7.	....	*Mary Bowrens*		..	*Removed to St. Andrew's Association.*			
8.	....	*Mary Natten*	*C.*	..	*M.*		15 *Oct.*	6. 2
9.	....	*Mr. Pengillis*.....	*C.*	..		*P.C.*	. ..	4. 4
10.	....	*Mrs. Reddar*	*C*	..		*B.S.*	....	1. 7
11.	....	*Mrs. Vincent*.....	*C.*	..		*B.S.*	....	1. 7
12.	....	*Mrs. Brookes*.....	*C.*	..		*MP.C.*	....	2. 1
13.	....	*Catherine Brookes*..		..	*S.P.*		....	7. 6
14.	....	*M. A. Snello*.....	*C.*	..		*MP.C.*	....	2. 1
15.	...	*James Woods*.....	*C.*	..		*P.C.*	....	4. 4
16.	....	*Mary Knighton*....		..	*N.*		....	3. 0
17.	....	*Elizabeth Toller* ...		..				
18.	....	*Elizabeth Tanners.*		..				
19.	....	*William Sherwell*..		..				
20.	....	*Elizabeth Escotson.*		..				
21.	....	*John Priony*		..				
22.	....	*William Smith*		..				
23.	....	*Mary Cox*	*C.*	2	*S.P.*		18 *Oct.*	11. 6
24.	....	*Susan Ladd*.....		..				
25.	....	*Mary Edward*	*C.*	3	*M.*		12 *Aug.*	6. 2
26.	....	*Elizabeth Church* ..	*C.*	..	*L.P.*		15 *Oct.*	10. 0

Second Specimen of

SECOND

OF

Bible

RECEIPTS AND DELIVERIES

[To occupy from Folio 181

181 Received from the *Ladies' Branch* Society.

When received.	No. of Invoice.	BIBLES.												TESTAMENTS.											
		SP. MR.	S. P	L. P	B. MR.	B.	M	N	M P	N P				P C	P. S	LP. C.	LP. S.	B. C	B. S	B L	MP. C.	MP. S.			
1819.																									
14 *July*.....	1.	..	10	..	..	20	20	6	..	6	..	..	..	..	20	..	..	..	10	..	10	..	..	..	..
14 *September*..	2.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
16	3.	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
20	4.	1	3	..	1	..	6	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	..	6	..	6	..	..	..	..
16 *October* ...	5.	..	6	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
23	6.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
19 *November*..	7.	3	12	3	..	..	8	12	..	2	..	..	..	..	12	..	4	2	12	6	..	..	..	..	..
26	8.	..	10	5	..	5	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	20	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total received		4	42	14	1	25	44	24	4	8	..	..	..	22	32	..	11	2	28	6	16	..	..	..	..
1820.																									
1 *January* ...																									
Stock on hand		2	31	8	..	21	30	13	1	7	..	..	..	12	31	..	10	2	23	2	3	..	..	..	..

the BIBLE BOOK.

SPECIMEN

THE

Book.

OF BIBLES AND TESTAMENTS.

to the end of the Book.]

Delivered to Subscribers. 182

In the Month ending	BIBLES.										TESTAMENTS.									
	SP. MR	S P	L P	B. MR	B	M	N	M P	N P		P C	P S	LP C.	LP S.	B C	B S.	B L	MP C.	MP S.	
1819.																				
12 *August*.....	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
9 *September*.....	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..
7 *October*.....	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1st *Public distribut.*	..	7	6	..	4	13	11	3	1	..	10	1	..	1	..	3	4	12	..	..
11 *November*.....	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
9 *December*.....	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Total delivered.....	2	11	6	1	4	14	11	3	1	..	10	1	..	1	..	5	4	13	..	..
Stock on hand.....	2	31	8	..	21	30	13	1	7	..	12	31	..	10	2	23	2	3	..	..
Total received.....	4	42	14	1	25	44	24	4	8	..	22	32	..	11	2	28	6	16	..	..
1820.																				
2d *Public distribut.*																				

17 *December*, 1819.

	B.	T.
Total Number of Copies received to this day	166	117
Delivered at Cost prices.....	38	25
..... *Under Cost prices*.....	15	8
..... *Gratuitously*.....	..	1
	53	34
Stock now on hand.....	113	83

Examined and found correct, W. Y. / A. Z. } *Auditors.*

Observations on the Bible Book.

XII. It may save trouble, and prevent inaccuracies, if the following explanation of the letters used in designating the various descriptions of Bibles and Testaments be pasted inside the Bible Book.*

	BIBLES.	Cost the Society. s.	d.
SP—MR	Small Pica, royal paper, 8vo. with Marginal References	14	0
SP.	Small Pica, medium paper, 8vo.	10	6
LP.	Long Primer, demy paper, 8vo.	9	6
B—MR.	Brevier, medium paper, with Marginal References	11	10
B.	Brevier, demy paper, 8vo.	7	2
M.	Minion, crown paper, 8vo.	6	0
N.	Nonpareil, 12mo.	4	2
MP.	Pocket, Minion type	5	7
NP.	Pocket, Nonpareil type	4	6
	TESTAMENTS.		
P—C.	Pica bound in Calf	4	3
P—S.	Pica Sheep	3	3
LP—C.	Long Primer Calf	3	2
LP—S.	Long Primer Sheep	2	2
B—C.	Brevier Calf	2	3
B—S.	Brevier Sheep	1	6
B—L.	Brevier Linen Cloth	1	3
MP—C.	Pocket, Minion type Calf	2	1
MP—S.	Pocket, Minion type Sheep	1	6

*** The BIBLES issued by the Society are bound in calf.

* The prices inserted in this Table are those of April 1821 : but the calculations, in all the Specimens contained in this Section, are made on the basis of the former prices, as specified in a similar Table, page 186.—The reduction having taken place while this work was in the press, the requisite alteration could not be made in the Specimens.

Observations on the BIBLE SECRETARY'S ORDERS.

NO. XIX.—BIBLE SECRETARY'S ORDERS.

I. These orders are printed on paper the same size as the Specimen: the title of the Association, and that of the Society with which it is connected, being filled in by the Bible Secretary. When the Association requires a supply of Bibles and Testaments, the Bible Secretary ascertains, by reference to the Cash Secretary, the balance due by the Ladies' Branch Society;* and adapts her order to such balance, and to the probable wants of the Association. She then fills up and signs one of these orders, which should be numbered successively, and sends it to the Bible Secretary of the Ladies' Branch Society.*

II. There are spaces left at the bottom of the list of English Bibles and Testaments, for the insertion of any copies, in *other* languages, which may be required. A list of all the versions on sale at the Depository of the Parent Society will be found in the Appendix, No. II.

III. It should always be recollected by the officers of Bible Associations, that the Societies with which they are connected do not recognise their orders until the full amount has been paid. Without a strict attention to this regulation, the interests and stability of both would be endangered. Before the introduction of these printed orders, frequent errors and disappointments occurred; but, by their adoption, the duties of the Bible Secretary are discharged with facility and correctness.

* Or the Auxiliary (or Branch) Society

Specimen of the BIBLE SECRETARY'S ORDERS.

SPECIMEN OF THE BIBLE SECRETARY'S ORDERS.

Charles' LADIES' BIBLE ASSOCIATION.

No. 1. *Plymouth, 11th July*, 1819.

The Bible Secretary of the *Ladies' Branch of the Plymouth, &c.* Auxiliary Bible Society is requested to furnish the *Charles'* Association with the following Bibles and Testaments; the amount of which, at *Cost Prices*, has been remitted to the Cash Secretary.

No. of Copies		At		Amount.		
	BIBLES.	*s.*	*d.*	£.	*s.*	*d.*
	Small Pica, with Marginal References	14	0			
10	Small Pica	10	6	5	5	0
	Long Primer	9	6			
	Brevier, with Marginal References	11	10			
20	Brevier	7	2	7	3	4
20	Minion	6	0	6	0	0
6	Nonpareil	4	2	1	5	0
	Minion type, Pocket	5	7			
6	Nonpareil type, Pocket	4	6	1	7	0
	TESTAMENTS.					
	Pica bound in Calf	4	3			
20	Pica Sheep	3	3	3	5	0
	Long Primer Calf	3	2			
	Long Primer Sheep	2	2			
	Brevier Calf	2	3			
10	Brevier Sheep	1	6		15	0
	Brevier Linen Cloth	1	3			
10	Minion, Pocket Calf	2	1	1	0	10
	Minion, Pocket Sheep	1	6			
102			£	26	1	2

Mary Williams, Bible Secretary.

NO. XX.—BIBLE SECRETARY'S MONTHLY REPORT.

I. This Report is printed on paper the same size as the Specimen: the title of the Association, and that of the Society with which it is connected, are filled in by the Bible Secretary.

II. The return under the head No. 1, is either taken from No. 6 of the *preceding* Report, or ascertained by subtracting the Deliveries from the Receipts (*See Second Specimen of No.* XVIII.); the remainder being the stock, which should be counted monthly, to ascertain that it agrees with the Report. It is evident that the returns to Nos. 2, 4, 5, 7, and 8, are derived from the account in the "Bible Book" (*Second Specimen*); and that those to Nos. 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14, are derived from the same book (*First Specimen*). The importance of these returns, as exhibiting the actual state of the Association, is sufficiently obvious. No. 5 should, of course, be omitted, where the plan of Public Distribution is not adopted.

III. The particulars relative to the "LOAN STOCK" are derived from the "LOAN FUND BOOK" (*No.* XXI.); and this part of the Report is altogether dispensed with by those Associations which do not adopt this part of the system. No. 6 refers to those Bibles and Testaments which have not been returned within a month, or renewed as loans by the Committee.—*See Chapter* VIII. *Section* II.

*** This Report should be filled up on the evening preceding every Committee-meeting, and a duplicate of it preserved; which will materially assist the Bible Secretary in preparing her Report for the following month.

Specimen of the BIBLE SECRETARY'S MONTHLY REPORT.

SPECIMEN

OF THE

BIBLE SECRETARY'S MONTHLY REPORT.

Charles' LADIES' BIBLE ASSOCIATION.

BIBLE SECRETARY'S Monthly Report. Presented 10*th* of *December*, 1819.

	B.	T.	Bib.	Test.
1. Stock on hand, as reported last Month			45	28
2. Received since last Report, from the *Ladies' Branch* Society			70	56
Total to account for			115	84
3. Delivered since the last Report,				
4. By Collectors' Tickets	2	1		
5. At the Public Distribution	0	0	2	1
6. Remaining on hand this day			113	83
7. Total Number of Copies RECEIVED since the establishment			166	117
8. Total Number of Do. DISTRIBUTED since Do.			53	34
9. Number of Copies distributed this Month at COST prices			2	..
10. Total Number of Do. Do. since the establishment at COST prices			38	26
11. Number of Copies distributed UNDER Cost prices this Month			..	1
12. Total Number of Copies distributed UNDER Cost prices since the establishment			15	8
13. Number of SUBSCRIBERS not yet supplied				182
14. Total Number of SUBSCRIBERS since the establishment				269

LOAN STOCK.

1. Total Number of Bibles and Testaments belonging to the Fund	56
2. Number of Copies RETURNED since the last Report	4
3. Number of Copies LENT since the last Report	3
4. Number of Copies now on loan	18
5. Total number of Persons supplied with loans since the establishment	86

6. The following Bibles and Testaments are out of time; viz.

No. of Copy.	Receiver's Name.	District.
18	*Martha Smith.*	22
27	*John Goodwin.*	26
31	*Hannah Gubbins.*	31

Mary Williams, Bible Secretary.

NO. XXI.—LOAN FUND BOOK.

I. This Book is of the size denominated "large post octavo," of stout quality, containing twelve leaves or double folios, and is covered with thick blue paper, on which the words "LOAN FUND BOOK" are inscribed. A copy of the Rules (*See Chap.* VIII. *Section* II.) should be pasted inside the cover, at the end of the book.

II. The FIRST SPECIMEN illustrates the mode of keeping the account. It will be recollected, that the sum of *5l.* 15*s.* 10*d.* was collected at the Second Committee Meeting (*See the Twenty-First Minute, No.* XI.) for the establishment of this fund, which is here entered at the Debtor side of the account. This money was immediately appropriated to the purchase of the Stock specified at the Creditor side of the account, from the Depositary of the *Auxiliary* Society. It should be observed, that Auxiliary and Branch Societies supply Associations with Bibles and Testaments, *for this exclusive purpose*, at the *reduced* prices—that is, the prices at which the Parent Institution sells to its subscribers under their privilege. In some instances, the Bibles and Testaments constituting the Loan Stock have been *presented* to the Association by the President, Treasurer, or some other benevolent individual.

III. The numbers in the first column of the SECOND SPECIMEN should be continued uninterruptedly, as in the "Free Contributors" and "Bible Books." The entries in the other columns are so clear as to preclude the necessity of further explanation.

*** The use of this book is, of course, dependent on the adoption of that part of the system with which it is connected.

FIRST
OF
Loan

ACCOUNT OF MONEY
[To occupy the first double

1. Dr. The Bible Secretary of the *Charles'*

1819.		£.	s.	d.
12 *July.*	*To Amount of the Fund collected*	5	15	10
		5	15	10
	10 *Pica Testaments, No.* 1 *to* 10.			
	20 *Long Primer ditto* 11 *to* 30.			
	20 *Brevier* . . *ditto* 31 *to* 50.			
	6 *Pica* . . . *ditto* 51 *to* 56.			

SECOND

LIST OF INDIVIDUALS
[To occupy the

2.

No.	When lent.	No. of Copy.	To whom lent.	Residence.
	1819.			
1.	13 *July.*	7	*Mary Candler*	*No.* 3, *Plough Court* . . .
2.	17 *Aug.*	2	*James Johnson*	*Chapel Court* . . .
3.	....	6	*Lucy Lawrence* . . .	6, *Duck's Lane* . . .
4.	....	39	*Margaret Lowe* . . .	2, *Little Church Lane* .
5.	....	17	*William Mercer* . . .	7, *Moon's Lane* . . .
6.	....	16	*William Leadbetter* . .	30, *French Lane* . . .
7.	....	22	*John Hayes*	3, *Exeter Street* . . .
8.	....	1	*Sarah Chesney*	*Catdown* . . . .
9.	14 *Sept.*	50	*Mary Adams*	*Lower Star Lane* . .
10.	....	4	*Mercy Makeford* . . .	13, *How's Lane* . . .
11.	....	31	*John Monkhouse* . . .	*A Prisoner in the Gaol*
12.	....	34	*Jane Joyce*	*Back Alley* . . . .
13.	....	3	*Elizabeth Jordan* . . .	*South-View* . . . .

SPECIMEN

THE

Fund Book.

RECEIVED AND EXPENDED.

Folio on opening the Book.]

Ladies' Bible Association. Cr. 1.

1819.		£.	s.	d.
13 *July.*	*By Stock purchased of the Auxiliary Society, at the reduced prices; viz.*			
	10 *Pica Testaments, Calf, at* 3s. 3d.	1	12	6
	20 *Long Primer ditto, at* 2s. 5d.	2	8	4
	20 *Brevier . . ditto, at* 1s. 9d.	1	15	0
		5	15	10
27	6 *Pica Testaments, Calf, presented by a Friend.*			

SPECIMEN.

SUPPLIED WITH LOANS.

remainder of the Book.]

2.

District.	When returned.	Observations.
	1819.	
2	15 *Oct.*	*Loan twice renewed. Received Pica Testament at reduced price.*
7	7 *Sept.*	*Returned by his Widow; he having died on the 4th September.*
7		*Renewed* 10 *Sept. Ditto* 8 *Oct. Ditto* 12 *Nov. Ditto* 10 *Dec.*
9	8 *Sept.*	*Removed from the Town. Returned damaged.*
18	4 *Oct.*	*Renewed* 10 *Sept. Received Brevier Testament at* 1*s.*
18	9 *Sept.*	*Deceased. Returned by his Widow.*
27	15 *Oct.*	*Renewed* 10 *Sept. Received Brevier Bible at* 5*s.*
31	17 *Oct.*	*Renewed* 10 *Sept. Ditto* 8 *Oct. Received Pica Testament at* 3*s.*6*d.*
14		*Renewed* 8 *Oct. Ditto* 12 *Nov. Ditto* 10 *Dec.*
16	7 *Oct.*	*Deceased. Returned by her Sister.*
18	6 *Oct.*	*Received a grant of a Pica Testament on his transportation.*
2	3 *Dec.*	*Renewed* 8 *Oct. D°.* 12 *Nov. Deceased. Returned by her Daughter.*
32	7 *Oct.*	*Completed her Subscription for a Minion Bible at* 3*s.* 6*d.*

The various Books and Papers used by the Collectors and Secretaries having been described, it remains to consider those that appertain to the office of TREASURER of a Bible Association.

NO. XXII.—TREASURER'S BOOK.

I. This Book is of the same size with the "Loan Fund Book." The Debtor side of the SPECIMEN occupies one page, and the Creditor side the opposite. It will be evident that this account is similar to that in the "CASH BOOK" (*See No.* XV. *Second Specimen*); except that the Treasurer enters the Monthly Receipts as *one* sum; whereas the Cash Secretary, as the official accountant of the Association, enters the Free Contributions and Bible Subscriptions separately.

II. The Treasurer will find advantage in entering the Receipts when the money is paid by the Cash Secretary, and the Payments immediately after they are made. And, as she *never* pays any money on account of the Association until she receives a copy of the Resolution which authorises it, she will find it convenient for reference to indorse and number these Resolutions; which are produced, as vouchers, at the end of the year, when the accounts are audited.

III. In some few Associations, the Treasurer's account is more complicated, and includes a statement of the amount of Bibles and Testaments received from the Auxiliary (or Branch) Society, or Ladies' Branch Society: but this is manifestly incorrect and unnecessary, as the "CASH BOOK" is the regular and proper register of all such statements; and, by dividing the simple duties of the Cash Secretary, an increased risk of incorrectness is incurred.

IV. In many Associations the Treasurer presents a Monthly Report to the Committee, detailing the state of the funds. This duty, however, devolves with greater propriety on the Cash Secretary, whose Monthly Statement (*See No.* XVII.) supersedes the necessity of any other; while the Treasurer's signature to that document recognises the accuracy of the entries that refer to her account.—The office of TREASURER involves a general superintendence, rather than an attention to minor details.

SPECIMEN
OF THE
Treasurer's Book.

1. Dr. The *Charles' Ladies'* Bible Association. **Cr. 1.**

1819.		£. s. d.	1819.		£. s. d.
11 *July*	*To Payment to Branch*	30. 0. 0	10 *July*	*By Cash & Secretary*	40. 7. 6
31 ...	*Balance in hand .*	10. 7. 6			
	£.	40. 7. 6		£.	40. 7. 6
31 *Aug.*	*Balance in hand .*	28. 1. 6	31 ...	*Balance in hand .*	10. 7. 6
			16 *Aug.*	*Cash & Secretary*	17.14. 0
	£.	28. 1. 6		£.	28. 1. 6
13 *Sept.*	*Payment to Branch*	50. 0. 0	31 ...	*Balance in hand .*	28. 1. 6
	Ditto to Cash Secy.	0. 3. 6	11 *Sept.*	*Cash & Secretary*	31.17. 3
30 ...	*Balance in hand .*	9.15. 3			
	£.	59.18. 9		£.	59.18. 9
11 *Oct.*	*Payment to Branch*	25. 0. 0	30 ...	*Balance in hand .*	9.15. 3
31 ...	*Balance in hand .*	1. 8. 0	8 *Oct.*	*Cash & Secretary .*	16.12. 9
	£.	26. 8. 0		£.	26. 8. 0
16 *Nov.*	*Payment to Branch*	27. 0. 0	31 ...	*Balance in hand .*	1. 8. 0
30 ...	*Balance in hand .*	1.13. 9	12 *Nov.*	*Cash & Secretary .*	27. 5. 9
	£.	28.13. 9		£.	28.13. 9
11 *Dec.*	*Payment to Branch*	18. 0. 0	30 ...	*Balance in hand .*	1.13. 9
....	*Ditto to Cash Secy.*	0. 3. 6	10 *Dec.*	*Cash & Secretary*	16. 9. 9
	£.	18. 3. 6		£.	18. 3. 6

17 *December*, 1819,
Called over with the Cash Book and Vouchers, and found correct.

W. Y.
A. Z. } *Auditors.*

Report presented to the Ladies' Branch.

The various Books and Papers which relate to the internal management of a Bible Association, however connected, having been fully described and explained, this appears to be the most suitable place for considering those important Reports, which exhibit, in a condensed form, the results of the Association, and its actual state, to the Society with which it is more intimately connected. These Reports are, at present, confined *exclusively* to Associations in connexion with Ladies' Branch Societies: but the advantages resulting from them have so far surpassed the author's anticipations, that he ventures to submit to the consideration of the Committees of Auxiliary and Branch Societies, generally, the propriety of a similar regulation. It is true, the Committees of well-organized Bible Societies are divided into District Committees; which are respectively charged with the duty of reporting, periodically, the actual state of the Associations in their district. But however executive these District Committees may be (and the author would rejoice to bear testimony to their *increased* diligence), it will readily be acknowledged, that the officers of an Association are better qualified to present a correct and impartial statement of their proceedings. Nor would the benefits derivable from this extension of the plan be confined to the Associations:—an interest, arising from local circumstances, would thus be given to the Committees of Auxiliary and Branch Societies; and, while the "Monthly Extracts of Correspondence" excited their gratitude, and animated their Christian hopes, they would not turn from these domestic details; nor

> "———— hear with a disdainful smile
> The short and simple annals of the poor."

The presumed advantage of bringing *all* the duties which may appertain to the officers of an Association under one connected and uninterrupted view, will sufficiently account for the introduction of the two following Reports here, rather than under the head of "Ladies' Branch Societies."

NO. XXIII.—TREASURER'S MONTHLY REPORT TO THE LADIES' BRANCH SOCIETY.

I. This Report is printed on a half sheet of "post" paper. The title of the Association, and that of the Society, are inserted by the Treasurer; and the Returns are filled in by the TREASURER and CASH SECRETARY jointly.

II. It will be perceived that this is a Monthly Compendium of *all* the pecuniary accounts of the Association, abstracted from the "Cash Book." The Specimen selected, being a transcript of the Report presented to the Committee-meeting immediately preceding the Annual Meeting, it will be observed (under the fourth and fifth heads), that neither the Ladies' Branch nor the Treasurer had any balance remaining in hand; a circumstance which only occurs annually, when the accounts are closed for the General Meeting. The similarity of the sums reported, respectively, under the heads 6 and 7, 8 and 9, and 10 and 11, has been already accounted for, on the ground of the recent establishment of this Association. In every *subsequent* Report, it is obvious that this will not be the case.

III. It is the practice in some places to include part of these returns in the Report from the District Committee (No. XXIV.): but the author submits the plan now recommended, as an improvement, not only as being more *simple* than the other, but as exhibiting a summary of the accounts in *one* paper instead of two, and as falling more immediately within the province of the Treasurer and Cash Secretary. By this arrangement another important advantage is gained, as it affords the District Committees greater space and opportunity for those interesting details which render their Reports so peculiarly valuable.

Specimen of the TREASURER'S MONTHLY REPORT.

SPECIMEN
OF THE
TREASURER'S MONTHLY REPORT
TO THE LADIES' BRANCH SOCIETY.

LADIES' BRANCH
OF THE
Plymouth, Plymouth Dock, and Stonehouse, &c.
AUXILIARY BIBLE SOCIETY.

MONTHLY REPORT OF the TREASURER of the *Charles'* Association.
Presented 28*th* of *December*, 1819.

	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
1. RECEIVED from the Collectors at the last Committee,		
Free Contributions	4 . 12 . 11	
Bible Subscriptions	11 . 16 . 10	
		16 . 9 . 9
2. Balance in the Treasurer's hands, as reported last Month		1 . 13 . 9
Total to account for		18 . 3 . 6
3. PAID since the last Monthly Report,		
To *Ladies' Branch*, per Vote of Committee . . .	18 . 0 . 0	
To Cash Secretary, for Incidental Expenses, per do.	. 3 . 6	18 . 3 . 6
4. Balance now in the Treasurer's hands . .		0 . 0 . 0
5. Balance now due to the Association by the *Ladies' Branch*		0 . 0 . 0
6. Amount received since the last Annual Meeting,		
Free Contributions	77 . 7 . 6	
Bible Subscriptions	72 . 19 . 6	150 . 7 . 0
7. Total amount received since the establishment,		
Free Contributions	77 . 7 . 6	
Bible Subscriptions	72 . 19 . 6	150 . 7 . 0
8. Amount paid to the *Ladies' Branch* since the last Annual Meeting,		
For Bibles and Testaments .	81 . 11 . 6	
For General Object	68 . 8 . 6	150 . 0 . 0
9. Total amount paid to the *Ladies' Branch* since the establishment,		
For Bibles and Testaments .	81 . 11 . 6	
For General Object	68 . 8 . 6	150 . 0 . 0
10. Amount of Incidental Expenses since the last Annual Meeting .		0 . 7 . 0
11. Total amount of ditto since the establishment		0 . 7 . 0

M. F. Treasurer.

NO. XXIV.—DISTRICT COMMITTEE'S MONTHLY REPORT TO THE LADIES' BRANCH SOCIETY.

I. It will be recollected, in reference to the Ladies' Branch of an Auxiliary Society, that the executive members consist of all the Presidents, Treasurers, and Secretaries, of the united Associations; and that the officers of each constitute the representatives, or District Committee, of the Association; in which capacity they present a Monthly Report to the Ladies' Branch Society. This Report occupies both sides of a half sheet of "large post" paper, and is filled up by the Secretaries: it is then given in charge to the MINUTE Secretary, who copies* it in the "Report Book," and presents it, when called for, at the next Meeting of the Ladies' Branch Society.

II. The names inserted in the first line are those of the Ladies belonging to the Branch Society. The returns under the 1, 3, 4, 5, and 6 heads, are furnished by the *Bible* Secretary; that under the 2d head by the *Cash* Secretary; and the remainder by the *Minute* Secretary: the Specimen of their respective books, &c. preclude the necessity of any further explanation relative to these particulars.

III. The information under the head "Facts and Observations" should be a selection from that detailed in the Collectors' Reports. It should be the object of the District Committee to present a luminous and *impartial* survey of the Association, without exaggerating its benefits or concealing any difficulties or impediments. The Branch Society will thus be enabled to ascertain and recommend to all the members of the family, those measures which have given strength and efficiency to one; and, on the other hand, to trace the partial obstacles to their source, and arrest the progress of weakness and decay.—The Facts detailed in the Specimen are transcribed from the interesting Reports of the *Liverpool* Ladies' Associations.

IV. As the "Collector's Monthly Report" (*No.* x.) should be a clear and explicit statement of the proceedings of the Association within a limited district, so *this* Report should exhibit (in connexion with the last No.) a similar view of the whole Association. The *Branch* Society is thus enabled to prepare a general abstract of the results of all its connected parts, for the information of the *Auxiliary* Society; and the latter to condense the returns from its several dependencies, and transmit a compendium of the whole to the *Parent Institution.* Thus, the system, complete in all its parts, moves with beautiful order and regularity; every member performs with facility its own peculiar functions; the importance and the singleness of the principle constitutes the governing spring of action; and the tendency of the whole, under the Divine blessing, is—to give effect to that celestial anthem which announced the Advent of our adorable Redeemer, "*Glory to* GOD *in the highest, and on earth peace, good will to men!*"

* Or attaches a duplicate copy with white wafers.

Specimen of the DISTRICT COMMITTEE'S MONTHLY REPORT.

SPECIMEN
OF THE
DISTRICT COMMITTEE'S MONTHLY REPORT.

LADIES' BRANCH
OF THE
Plymouth, Plymouth Dock, and Stonehouse, &c.
AUXILIARY BIBLE SOCIETY.

Sixth MONTHLY REPORT of the *Charles'* District Committee.

Presented *28th of December*, 1819.

Mrs. H...... *Miss F.*..... *Miss J. C.*..... *Mrs. P.*..... and *Miss A. M. W.*..... attended the last Committee Meeting of the Association in this District; of the present state of which, the following is an Abstract.

	Now subscribing.	Since the establishment.
1. Number of BIBLE Subscribers	182	269
2. Number of FREE Contributors	447	478
Total Number	629	747
	Since last Report.	Since the establishment.
3. Number of BIBLES distributed,		
At Cost Prices	2	38
Under Cost Prices	0	15
Gratuitously, by Grants from Auxiliary Society	0	0
4. Number of TESTAMENTS distributed,		
At Cost Prices	0	25
Under Cost Prices	1	8
Gratuitously, by Grants from Auxiliary Society	0	1
5. Total Number of Copies distributed	3	87
6. Number of Persons supplied with LOAN TESTAMENTS	3	86

7. Number of Ladies on the Committee.....	49	9. Number of Districts	38
8. Number present this Month,	41	10. Number of Districts without Collectors.....	0

FACTS AND OBSERVATIONS.

The members of the Committee evince an unabated interest in the cause they have espoused; and the most gratifying and uninterrupted

Specimen of the DISTRICT COMMITTEE'S MONTHLY REPORT.

harmony prevails. One Collector has declined, and two have been added this month. All the Ladies bear testimony to the kindness, civility, and gratitude, with which they are invariably received. The number of learners in the two adult schools to which our Association has given rise, has considerably increased.

One of our districts, a small and rather poor one, has been revisited throughout, this month, and fourteen additional free contributors obtained: the Collectors report an increasing desire to possess the holy scriptures as being very evident. The Loan Testaments are carefully preserved, and appear to be diligently and gratefully read.

A respectable schoolmaster in one of our districts, who is a free contributor, expressed a great desire to get the "Monthly Extracts," offering to pay for them. The Collectors supplied him with some odd numbers, and with the "Southwark Facts:" and on the following week, he told them he had lent the latter to some of his acquaintance to read; and that a mother and her son had, in consequence, become free contributors: he added, that he should now read those interesting papers to the boys in his school, that they might know and understand what that great Society was about, to which he had himself been formerly opposed, before he knew the good it was doing.

Another district reports:—An aged and industrious couple have been, from the establishment, constant and cheerful free contributors. They have received, at cost prices, four Testaments; most, if not all of which, they have given to poor children. When the order for the last Testament was given them, they were asked whether they purposed continuing their subscription: "Certainly," was the reply; "there are plenty of poor children; and we cannot give them any thing better than a Testament."

A female servant, one of our earliest subscribers, brought the cost price for six Bibles to one of the Collectors. She had obtained it from some of her acquaintance, to whom the Ladies had not access.

We have no persons to recommend for gratuitous grants this month; and we trust the system of LOANS *will gradually supersede the former mode of supply.*

J. C. . . .
S. P. . . . } Members of the District Committee.
A. M. W. . .

There is yet another, and an important document, which demands consideration, and forms an appropriate conclusion of this Section. It is a judicious regulation of every well-constituted society of a benevolent nature, that an ANNUAL REPORT of its proceedings and results shall be submitted to its friends and supporters, by those to whom the executive duties have been entrusted: and in no case have the advantages of this regulation been more evident, than in reference to the British and Foreign Bible Society. The numerous Reports of Auxiliary and Branch Societies and Associations,

with the periodical and occasional publications of the Parent Institution, have enlightened the public mind on the nature, tendency, and effects of their proceedings. They have afforded the best evidence that the funds have been faithfully applied; that the great principle of the Society has been maintained inviolate; and that the results, both direct and collateral, have been in a high degree beneficial. In the perusal of the many hundreds of these Reports which have fallen under the author's observation, nothing has appeared to him more astonishing, than the universal prevalence of that judgment, prudence, and charity, so essential to success. When it is considered, that, on a moderate computation, at least twenty thousand individuals, within the United Kingdom, take an active part in the concerns of these societies, it might naturally be expected that occasional deviations from the strict line of propriety, either in practice or in language, would be manifested. Whatever is entrusted to human agency, necessarily partakes of human frailty. But these Reports speak for themselves: and the author is not ashamed to confess, that the perusal of them has deepened the impression long made on his mind, in contemplating the rise and progress of the Bible Society, that "*this counsel and this work* IS *of* GOD!"

In Associations which hold their own Annual Meetings, the Reports are read at such meetings; in a Gentlemen's Association, by the Minute Secretary; in that conducted by Ladies, by the Chairman, or by one of the Secretaries of the society with which it is connected. In *both* cases, the Report is, generally, printed and circulated subsequently; although some Associations have discontinued the practice of printing their Reports. The propriety or impropriety of this depends so much on local circumstances and opinions, that the respective Committees can alone be the proper judges: but in such cases, the Annual Report of the Auxiliary (or Branch) Society should include all the particulars relative to its Associations.

In Associations connected with a Ladies' Branch Society, the Annual Reports are transmitted to the Secretaries of the Branch; and one general Report is prepared, which is read at the Annual Meeting of the Auxiliary Society. The following Specimen belongs to this class.

NO. XXV.—ANNUAL REPORT.

1. This Report is detailed on a sheet of folio paper; and the printed form occupies about one-third of the first page. The returns under the several heads exhibit a clear view of the concerns

of the Association, and of its annual progress towards the attainment of its object. *This*, it should always be recollected, is twofold; first, the supply of local wants; and secondly, the supply of all mankind with the holy scriptures.

II. The Collectors should be requested to specify, in their Reports to the Monthly Committee-meeting immediately preceding every Annual Meeting, the number of families visited during the past year, and the numbers still destitute of the holy scriptures. This is easily ascertained by reference to the Visiting and Collecting Books, and constitutes an important head of information. The sources that supply the returns under all the other heads, have been pointed out in the observations on the preceding numbers.

III. It has been already stated, that the Facts and Observations detailed in these Specimens are extracted from the Annual Reports of the Ladies' Bible Societies of Liverpool, Manchester, and Plymouth. In the following Specimen there are some exceptions to this remark. The interesting fact numbered (2) is derived from the Ladies' Bible Association of *Christchurch;* that numbered (3) from the Association of *Douglas*, Isle of Man; and (4), (5), (6), and (7), from the Associations established at *Hull.*

IV. In the preparation of an Annual Report of a Bible Association, simplicity of language and perspicuity of detail should be principally studied, especially in reference to those Associations which hold their own Annual Meetings. Few of the poor are habituated to an argumentative disquisition; but all can understand short and simple statements, and those instances of individual reformation, and moral improvement, that constitute the best evidence of the beneficial tendency and effects of the system. Allusion has already been made (*see No.* X.) to the importance of strict and judicious investigation, before these facts are reported to the Committee; but an equal degree of judgment is requisite in selecting them for the public eye. With a due regard to brevity and variety, it may be safely asserted, that *one* well-authenticated instance of moral reformation is of more value than *fifty* professions of attachment to the Bible. Deeds speak louder than words: and those on whom the sacred Oracles have made the deepest impression, will shew their faith by their works, rather than their oral declarations:—

> Silent and full the *deepest* rivers flow;
> 'Tis *shallow* brooks that babble as they go.

V. The printed form that occupies the first part of this Report has not been adopted by any Associations, except those connected with a Ladies' Branch. How far it may be deemed applicable in other cases, is a matter of local consideration; but its advantages, in presenting a lucid and connected statement, are sufficiently evident. The remarks submitted in the last division of Section V. Chap. II., and those in reference to the same subject in Section IV. of Chap. III., afford every requisite explanation relative to the mode of conducting a General Meeting.

Specimen of the ANNUAL REPORT of a Bible Association.

SPECIMEN

OF THE

ANNUAL REPORT.

ANNUAL REPORT of the *Charles' Ladies'* BIBLE ASSOCIATION.

Presented 28*th* of *December*, 1819.

1. N°. of Families visited this Year ...	1729	
2. D°. of FREE Contrib^{s}. now subscribing	447	
3. Total N°. of D°. since establishment	478	
4. N°. of BIBLE Subscr^{s}. not yet supplied	182	
5. Total N°. of D°. since establishment	269	

6. N°. of Copies distrib. this Year,	Bibles.	Test.
At Cost Prices. . .	38	25
Under Cost Prices	15	8
Gratuitously . . .		1
Total . . .	53	34
7. Total N°. distributed since the establishment,		
At Cost Prices . .	38	25
Under Cost Prices	15	8
Gratuitously . . .		1
General Total . .	53	34

8. Amount received this Year,	£	s.	d.
In FREE Contributions	77	7	6
In BIBLE Subscriptions	72	19	6
Total	150	7	0
9. Amount received since the establishment,			
In FREE Contributions . .	77	7	6
In BIBLE Subscriptions .	72	19	6
General Total . . .	150	7	0
10. Amount paid to the *Ladies' Branch* this Year,			
For Bibles and Testaments .	81	11	6
For General Object	68	8	6
Total	150	0	0
11. Amount paid to D°. since the establishment,			
For Bibles and Testaments .	81	11	6
For General Object	68	8	6
General Total	150	0	0

12. Number of Persons supplied with Loan Testaments this Year	86	
13. D°. of D°. supplied with D°. since the establishment	86	
14. Amount of Incidental Expenses this Year		7 . 0
15. Total amount of D°. D°. since the establishment		7 . 0
16. Number of Districts	38	
17. Number of Ladies now on the Committee	49	
18. N°. of Families destitute of the Holy Scriptures, as far as can be ascertained,	416	

In presenting their first Annual Report, the Committee desire to acknowledge, with reverent gratitude, the extension of the Divine blessing in giving effect to their humble exertions. To the same source of Infinite Mercy, they would trace that uninterrupted harmony which has characterized their proceedings; and to its continued influence they would look, for the ability to preserve unimpaired that pure principle, which can alone enable them "*to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of Peace.*"

In reviewing the events of the last year, we cannot help contrasting our present feelings of grateful satisfaction, with those that occupied our minds when we first engaged in this interesting undertaking. It is true we had not, even then, any doubts as to the importance of the cause, and the advantages likely to accrue from our visits to the poor: but many fears and diffi-

culties suggested themselves, arising out of the state of the labouring classes, and their presumed misapprehension of our motives and intentions. These fears and difficulties we have indeed found to be imaginary: we have been uniformly treated, not only with respect, but with the greatest kindness and affection. The weekly visits by the Collectors are anticipated with evident and cordial satisfaction; and are rendered increasingly gratifying, by the improved habits of cleanliness, order, and decorum, that are gradually extending among the subscribers. In reference to this subject, and as an illustration of these remarks, the following fact, reported by the Collectors of one of our districts, is presented.

(1.) "Shortly after the establishment of the Association, we called on a poor woman in our district; and, in answer to our inquiry, were informed that she had neither Bible nor Testament. Her manner, and general appearance, gave us reason to fear that she attached no importance to the inquiry, nor any value to the Sacred Volume. She and her children were ragged; her apartments extremely dirty; and every object around denoted idleness and waste. After some conversation, she agreed to become a subscriber. In the course of a short time, the sum was completed, and she received her Bible. Not many weeks had elapsed, when she sent a message, requesting us to call upon her again, as she was particularly desirous of seeing us. We complied with her wishes, and were highly gratified by our visit. The poor woman burst into tears as soon as she saw us; and, in the most affecting and grateful language, expressed her feelings.—'Never,' said she (taking down the Bible from the clean shelf on which it was placed), 'never can I pay sufficiently for this Book: it has proved a blessing to me, and my dear husband.' Upon further conversation, we discovered that, indeed, a great alteration had taken place in her habits and conduct; and that both spiritual and temporal benefit appeared to have resulted to her family and herself from the perusal of the Scriptures. From never having been in the habit of going to a place of worship, we now learnt that she was constant in her attendance: her children seemed no longer neglected; her room was in perfect order; and every thing wore the air of neatness and comfort."

Your Committee beg leave to add the testimony derived from their limited experience, to those of other and older Associations, in favour of the plan adopted for supplying the poor with the holy scriptures, *through their own instrumentality*. It has been abundantly proved, that the value of the Bible is considerably enhanced by its being obtained through some sacrifice on the part of the receiver; and few indeed are the instances, in this happy land, wherein some portion of the cost price cannot be contributed. One of these instances, however, has fallen under our observation, in a manner so peculiarly calculated to excite attention, that we cannot refrain from placing it on more permanent record.

(2.) Shortly after the establishment of this Association, one of the Secretaries called at the house of a poor widow, who was a free contributor of a penny a-week. On asking who lived at the adjoining cottage, the woman replied, that it was a poor, aged, bedridden cripple. "But, Madam," added she, "it is of no use for you to call on her, as she is too poor to subscribe any thing for a Bible." On hearing the name of the poor sufferer, the Lady immediately recollected that she was entered as a subscriber of ourpence a-week, for a Small-pica Bible: and on mentioning this, with some expression of surprise, to the widow, the latter appeared confused; and at length confessed, that her two little daughters had privately agreed to subscribe twopence a-week each, out of their earnings at a manufactory, in order to provide this poor destitute cripple with a Bible; and the money was paid in *her* name, that their benevolent secret might not transpire.

Specimen of the Annual Report.

We feel convinced, that the establishment of the LOAN FUND has been productive of much benefit, both to this Society and the poor. The delight with which the Testaments have been always received, and the eagerness which many have manifested to obtain similar ones, which they might call *their own*, are gratifying proofs of the truth of this observation.

(3.) We have been delighted in perceiving the deep and increasing interest which the poor manifest in the *Foreign* object of the Bible Society; a feeling that has been considerably strengthened and extended by the circulation of the *Monthly Extracts* of Correspondence. The following fact is a gratifying evidence of this prevalent sentiment:—

A woman, whose husband possesses a few acres of land, and with whom, when visiting the district, we had left some papers, explanatory of the nature of the Association, called at our house one day, and presented three shillings, which she said was to go towards the purchase of a large Bible for herself, as the one she possessed was of so small a print she could scarcely read it. At the same time she expressed her desire to become a free contributor, and laid down threepence for the three weeks which had elapsed since we called on her. Although gratified by her cheerful willingness to subscribe, we were inclined to think she did not understand what was meant by a *free* contributor; and therefore asked, whether it was her intention to subscribe freely while she was also paying for her own Bible? "Yes," she replied; "I see, by the papers you gave me, how necessary it is to give money to get Bibles for the poor creatures in foreign countries:" and bursting into tears, she added, "Oh! how much better are *they* when they get Bibles; and how much more *they* profit by them than we do, who know what we ought to do!"

It has been frequently remarked, that the proceedings of the British and Foreign Bible Society, and of its numerous Auxiliaries and Associations, have produced a two-fold effect—that of exciting a *desire* to possess and read the Sacred Volume, as well as supplying the wants of the poor. Of this we have had many proofs; among which the following are not the least gratifying:—

(4.) A little girl, having heard the Collectors, as they called at a neighbour's house, immediately offered her subscription of twopence a-week for a Bible. On being asked how she could afford it, she said, she gathered a pennyworth of bones every week; and she would try to gather more, so as to add another penny to it. She has since paid threepence a-week.

(5.) A German coal-carrier, who had received a Bible from the Hull Bible Society, was asked by one of our Collectors, whether he could afford to become a free contributor. "Oh, yes," he replied; "for I do not only possess an English Bible, but a German one, which I loved in my own country; and I do so wish every body to have one, that I will subscribe to send the Bible back to my own country."

(6.) A woman, being asked to become a free contributor, replied, that she would give a penny as long as she had two in the world. And a neighbour, asking her what the Ladies were about; she answered, "Collecting for the Bible Society: and when the circulation of the Bible is the question, the cause must be good."

(7.) A poor man, who had saved some money, in order to spend it at the fair, on hearing of the Bible Associations, thought he might devote it to a better purpose, and requested he might have a Testament of the largest type, as he had a mother residing in Lincolnshire, whose sight was had from age. He said, he knew she would be delighted with one of the Society's Testaments, and shed many a tear over it, as she had offered up many a prayer for the Bible Society. He then added, "As soon as I can afford it, I mean

to subscribe for a Bible for myself; as I know a man who had one from your Association, and before he got it *he was all for reform:* 'but now,' says he, 'Thomas, *I have read the Bible, and I hope it has been blessed to me, as I find reform must begin in my own heart.*'"

(8.) A boy, about ten years of age, frequently asked the Collector, with great anxiety, how much he had to pay towards his Bible? The last time she called upon him he repeated the inquiry. The money owing was 1*s.* 8*d.* He gave her threepence. In the evening he called on her, to ask if she would allow him to have his Bible? The Collector supposed he had received a present; as he had before brought her 1*s.* 10*d.* which was given him as a Christmas gift. But he informed her, that, in the course of the day, a lady called at his father's house, who had taken a great fancy to a little dog of his, and offered to give him a shilling for it. He whispered to his brother, "It will not pay for my Bible." His brother told the lady what he had said; and insinuated, that, if she pleased to give him fivepence more, he thought he might be persuaded to part with his little favourite. "I will freely give him the other pence, replied the lady, in so good a cause." By this means the little fellow was enabled to have his long-wished-for Bible sooner than he expected.

(9.) On calling upon a boy for his subscription, he came delighted from his work with a Bible under his arm, that he had received as a present. His contribution previously was only a penny; now, he said, he would advance it to threepence weekly, to procure a Bible for his father.

(10.) A little girl earnestly requested, and obtained permission from her mother, to subscribe the sum of sixpence per week, arising from the sale of flowers out of their garden, which had been allowed her for the purchase of a new bonnet; which she said she would much rather spend for a large Bible, as she could then lend it to her mother, who had only a small one. After paying the full price, and receiving it at the last distribution, she brought to the Collector her new-year's gift of sixpence, as a free donation.

There is something in the very name and character of the BIBLE, that excites respect and attention even from unblushing profligacy; and, by a natural transition, some portion of this feeling is transferred towards those who are privileged to co-operate in its universal dissemination. In this point of view, the following extract may not be uninteresting:—

(11.) As two of the Collectors were going their usual round, in one of the streets they heard a group of women quarrelling. As they approached near the place from whence the noise proceeded, they were perceived by one of the women, who exclaimed, "Hush! hush! the Bible Ladies are coming." Upon hearing this they immediately separated, and returned quickly to their houses.

Although the Christian requires no evidence of the sufficiency of the Scriptures, under the teaching and guidance of the Holy Spirit, to make men "*wise unto salvation, through faith which is in* CHRIST JESUS," yet every renewed confirmation of this sacred truth, as exhibited in a corresponding change of life, will be welcomed by those, who, in obedience to the Divine injunction, judge of the "Tree" by its "Fruits."

(12.) A Collector lent a Testament to a poor woman who was unable to subscribe for one. About six weeks after, as the Collector was passing by, she called her in, and told her, that the Testament she had lent had been the means of changing her husband's conduct; for he used to be quarrelsome, fond of the alehouse, and never went to any place of worship. *Now*, he is quiet in his temper, fond of remaining in the house; and every opportunity he has, he reads the Testament to his children, and regularly attends divine service.

Specimen of the Annual Report.

(13.) The Collector in No. 36 District, reports, that she lent one of her subscribers a Testament, with which he and his wife were much pleased; they read it every opportunity. When the Collector first called, the man could not read; but he has since been taught by an old match-man, who lodges with them. The papers explaining the nature of the Institution, that were left when the District was first visited, are treasured up and read every Sunday night. They say, "they are sure that GOD sent the Bible Ladies to their cellar; for they are much happier since they visited them than ever they were before."

After the mention of facts such as these, will it be necessary to inform you, that the strong and prevalent sentiment of the poor towards their Collectors is that of *affectionate gratitude?*—This feature is so striking, that your Committee, in speaking of it, feel that they are in no danger of exaggeration. In a variety of ways, and by a thousand little actions, it is so feelingly and unequivocally expressed, that the heart must be cold which could be insensible to it. One poor woman, who had received a Bible, hearing that her Collector was ill, called at the house to inquire for her, offering her services "by day or by night," if they could be of any avail. Oftentimes is the little garden stripped of its finest flowers for a nosegay, to welcome the arrival of the Collector. A basket of fresh vegetables, a plant, or some little article of curious manufacture, have been so many proofs that your Collectors are beloved—that the poor are grateful. A poor woman who was subscribing for a Bible, and whose poverty induced the Collectors to recommend her as a claimant on a benevolent society, received them on their next visit with strong emotions of affection and sensibility, earnestly wishing she had any thing, in "her poor little way," worth presenting: and when they assured her they were amply recompensed by seeing her neat apartment, and being able, through a kindred institution, to procure her any additional comforts, she seemed as if considering how she should evince her feelings; when taking down two ears of Indian corn, she presented one to each Collector, strongly urging their acceptance; and was so pained by their refusal (as though fearing it was not "good enough") that they were compelled to accept her grateful tribute.*

It is the peculiar, the distinguishing feature of this charity, that its tendency is always in favour of the better feelings of our nature. The *key* that unlocks the most sullen and selfish heart is *kindness:* employ but this means, and the benevolent affections spring forth in all their energy, in bosoms where their existence might, previously, have been doubted. Casual, though munificent, bounty, often fails in accomplishing this: but the individual who from week to week, and from month to month, pursues with untiring diligence, and frequently at the expense of personal ease and comfort, a work whose law is kindness—whose object is mercy—whose only reward is found in the increased happiness of mankind—gives such a proof of the purity and disinterestedness of her charity, that, sooner or later, the heart becomes a willing captive to its influence.

In conclusion, the Committee cordially invite the co-operation and support of those benevolent Ladies, who may devote a portion of their time to this important work, without the neglect of any more immediate duty. They beg leave to assure them, that the office of a Collector is formidable in *appearance* only; and should it even be attended by the sacrifice of a small portion

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* Second Annual Report of the Plymouth, &c. Ladies' Bible Society.

of that time, much of which may innocently and laudably be devoted to intellectual pursuits, or the acquisition of elegant accomplishments, your Committee think they will not regret the exchange, when what is now present and future becomes irrevocably past;—when all the glories that now gild the twilight of time, shall fade before the splendour of *eternal day*;—when the Son of Man, appearing in the clouds of heaven as the Judge of an assembled universe, shall deign to acknowledge the work of faith and labour of love of the humblest of His followers in those transporting words,—"INASMUCH *as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto Me.*"

SECTION VI.

GENERAL REMARKS.

When it is considered, that, on a moderate computation, at least *ten thousand* Ladies in Great Britain and Ireland are engaged in the practical application of the system detailed in the preceding Sections, and that many of these "honourable women" are distinguished for their elevated rank, their talents, and their virtues; it becomes a matter of profitable inquiry, whether the benefit derived from their generous zeal and disinterested services be commensurate with the time and energy thus benevolently directed. That the results have satisfied themselves, is a truth which their steady perseverance satisfactorily establishes: and the instances of moral benefit, interspersed throughout this Chapter, will sufficiently account for their unabated ardour in a cause, the happy effects of which they daily behold. But there are many extensive districts of our own country, nominally included by Auxiliary and Branch Societies, to which this portion of the system may be advantageously applied; and on the Continent of Europe it has been but very partially adopted in a few principal towns. Under a conviction, therefore, that the tendency and effects of those institutions have not yet received a due share of public attention; and satisfied that it is only necessary to investigate their merits, in order to promote their universal extension; the author submits the following illustration of those remarks which have been already offered in Section VII. of Chap. III. and in other divisions of the present work.

1. The effects of *Auxiliary* Societies, in exciting a desire to possess the holy scriptures, has been already shewn in the Preliminary Observations, Chap. II.; and the following Table will satisfactorily establish the extension of this result, by means of *Ladies' Bible Associations.*

SALES & ISSUES *of* BIBLES & TESTAMENTS.

	No. of Copies issued in Great Britain.	Amount of Sales.
		£. s. d.
During the *five* years ending March 1809 . .	158,429	9,764. 7. 2
During the *five* years ending March 1814 . .	828,658	56,056. 0. 7
Total in the first *ten* years	987,087	65,820. 7. 9
During the *five* years ending March 1819 . .	1,145,321	125,561. 9. 4
During the *two* years ending March 1821 . .	503,840	55,170. 12. 6
Total in the last *seven* years	1,649,161	180,732. 1. 10
TOTAL since the establishment of the British and Foreign Bible Society . .	2,636,248	246,552. 9. 7

2. Of the *direct* benefits resulting from this increased circulation of the holy scriptures, and consequently to be ascribed, under the Divine blessing, to the institution of Bible Associations, numerous instances have been adduced in the preceding Section. In adding to this mass of evidence, the only difficulty is, to select such testimonies as may place the subject in every point of view; and thus attract the attention of some who have hitherto appeared indifferent to the progress of a cause, wherein the best interests of their country are involved.

Henley-on-Thames Ladies', 1816.—"One person, who has now given her name as a *free* contributor, had before determinately refused, being decidedly of opinion that no benefit could arise from such an institution. The only reason which now induces her to subscribe, is the evident improvement in the conduct of those in the district who are subscribers to this society."

Westminster, 1818.—"An interesting circumstance has lately occurred in our district. A person of very depraved habits, who was a ringleader in every species of dissipation, and especially eminent as a pugilist, had his attention directed to serious subjects. The energy of character by which he exceeded his companions in wickedness, now displays itself in endeavouring to do good: he is become as earnest in inviting his former associates to attend public worship, as he was before in encouraging them to drink or to fight. He is, of course, a diligent reader of his Bible; and anxious to give his ignorant neighbours the means of participating in the advantages and enjoyments he himself has experienced, he has become a Collector to our Bible Association, and, among the most unpromising habitations in Westminster, has procured fifteen subscribers for Bibles, three of whom have entered themselves in an Adult School to be taught to read."

Godalming, 1815.—"Your Committee have heard, with peculiar pleasure, that the habits of *swearing* and *drunkenness* are certainly lessening; and that

those of *decency*, *order*, *economy*, and *industry*, are evidently increasing among the poor in this neighbourhood."

Rochester, &c. 1820.—" We are not at a loss to prove that the Scriptures have really been productive of moral and religious good. We know that many who swore, swear no more!—that many who were spending their all in public-houses, and thereby bringing ruin upon themselves and their families, are become domestic and moral, if not religious characters—that many, who have scarcely had bread to eat, have submitted to privations and distress, rather than break the commandments of God, or the laws of their country."

Blackheath, 1814.—" The Bible Association formed in the Dock-yard at Woolwich has 705 subscribers at one penny a-week each, furnishing the annual amount of £.151. 15*s*. The Committee remark, with the highest satisfaction, ' that in many instances the perusal of the Word of God has produced, as was to be expected, a very manifest improvement in the moral conduct of those who have received it.' In proof of this, the Committee quote especially the language of Mr. Willmott, of the Woolwich rope-yard; who testifies, ' that there appears a *general reform* in the moral character of the rope-makers there employed.' Formerly, their habits were exceedingly censurable; intoxication and profane swearing being very common amongst them. ' But now,' he says, ' it is very unusual to see a single individual the least disguised in liquor, while on duty; nor does he ever now hear them make use of the profane and blasphemous expressions formerly so commonly indulged in that yard.' "

Ditto, 1819.—" One of the parishes within the sphere of this Society's labours, and where an Association was formed about four years ago, consists chiefly of farmers, labourers, and mechanics. Every Sunday afternoon, it has been long customary for the farmer's men to assemble together in the stables, and talk over the occurrences of the week. The intention having been to divert each other, the practice, according to their own account, was to relate childish tales, and often false stories, for this purpose. Some of the men having been supplied with the Scriptures, it has afforded the Committee peculiar satisfaction to become spectators of the moral and religious benefit which has since accrued. Now, every Sunday afternoon, instead of meeting to gamble, engage in unbecoming games, and utter idle or profane language, they meet to hear the Scriptures read to them. One of their own party is often seen reading to the rest, while they earnestly listen to every word. Afterwards, too, as soon as they have attended to their unavoidable business, they no longer resort to a public-house, but devoutly attend a place of worship."

Farnham Ladies', 1816.—" Mrs. ——, the mother of a numerous family, which she had entirely neglected, for the sake of associating with persons of the most abandoned character, was formerly a bad wife, a careless mother, and an injurious neighbour. At the commencement of this Association, in August, 1814, she became a subscriber; and received a Bible in April, 1815. Some time afterwards, there was a visible alteration in the appearance of her children, who were much neater, and seemed happier than formerly:—she has become active, sober, and industrious. She now reads the Bible as often as her numerous engagements will permit; is become a dutiful wife, an affectionate mother, a good neighbour; and no longer frequents the public-house, and that abandoned society, which was once her chief employment and principal delight."

" A poor man, who was notorious principally for his intemperance and domestic misconduct, has exhibited a remarkable change in his behaviour. His child received a Bible from the Association twelve months ago; and for the greater part of this time he has been an altered character: he has

not committed one act of intemperance; his family are now cleanly, and happy in participating a father's kindness, instead of the shameless brutality of intoxication; and he devotes all his leisure hours to the duties of home, and to the perusal of the Bible, which before were spent in the joyous though wretched insanity of the alehouse, and solely marked by the neglect of his family and every kind of religious duty."

3. Among the many *collateral* benefits of Bible Associations, few have been more decisively evinced than the increasing desire to possess the Book of Common Prayer, and other valuable publications of a kindred nature. The following evidences of this disposition will afford a satisfactory illustration of the remarks offered on this subject, in Section XII. of Chapter I.

Wokingham Ladies', 1820.—"Many of the poor, having been put in possession of the inspired volume, have become anxious to supply themselves with the Book of Common Prayer: and thereby, it may reasonably be concluded, they have gained more advantage from their attendance at Church than before this Association was established, when they had neither Bible nor Prayer Book."

St. Clement Danes, Westminster, 1816.—"Many of those who are at present subscribing for, or who have obtained the Scriptures, have eagerly inquired of the Collectors, how they may be supplied with the Common Prayer-Book."

Windsor, 1817.—"The Vicar of Staines stated a fact, that proved the support which Bible Societies afforded to the Established Church. At Staines, soon after an Auxiliary Society was formed, the demand for Prayer-Books greatly increased. The Church is better filled, the populace better disposed. *Three hundred* Prayer-Books had been since disposed of at a cheap rate; and the demand is not diminished."

Henley, 1816.—"Your Committee rejoice in being enabled to state, that the Ladies of the Henley Bible Association, both members of the Establishment and Dissenters, have, as *individuals*, received subscriptions for, and supplied the poor with, a greater number of copies of the Book of Common Prayer, at half cost price, than had been previously distributed in this district during many years: nor has a solitary case occurred wherein the application has not been promptly and cheerfully complied with."

4. It has been already remarked, that an increasing desire on the part of both children and adults to learn to read, was one of the earliest effects produced by the Bible Society on the Continent of Europe. The following extracts will establish the fact of a similar disposition in our own country, and on the American continent.

Worcester, 1813.—"In the town and neighbourhood of Stourbridge, *one hundred and ninety-six* persons, between the ages of *fifteen* and *forty-five*, who, before the institution of a Bible Society in that neighbourhood, were unable to read, have voluntarily, between the hours of labour, began to learn, in order that they may peruse the Scriptures." To this statement it is added,—"The places of public worship also are more numerously attended; and religious animosities are much softened, if not entirely subdued."

Plymouth Ladies', 1819.—"Adults have commenced learning to read. A very prosperous school of this description, containing forty scholars, traces its origin *entirely* to the influence of your Associations; and those previously existing have acknowledged considerable augmentation since the period of your commencement: scarcely one of the Associations but

Increased desire to be taught how to read.

mentions some instance of this effect having been produced. 'Our Adult Schools,' say they, 'have been again revived; and the Collectors have recorded several instances of individuals, who, on their first visit, were totally unable to read, but can now peruse with facility a chapter in the Testament.' The number of children also, who applied for admission, particularly in the Sunday Schools, in the course of a few weeks after the formation of the Associations, was truly astonishing. In the female part of one school alone, the increase was from *ninety* to upwards of *one hundred and fifty:* and this increase was traced directly to this operating cause. It is a pleasing fact, that, in one of these schools, *twenty-five* of the children became subscribers for Bibles and Testaments."

Cumberland, New Jersey, 1818.—"In this town we have had a Sunday School established for about three years; which is increasing. But *since the formation of our Bible Society*, EIGHT more Sunday Schools have been opened."

Reading Ladies', 1817.—"Anxiety to peruse their Bibles has likewise induced some, even in advanced age, to apply themselves so assiduously to improve in reading, as to make a surprising progress in a short period: several instances of this earnestness in children might be mentioned; but the following has been selected from many proofs of serious application in adults. On visiting an aged woman who had received a Bible, she declared it was the best piece of furniture in her house; adding, "Now that I have a Bible with so good a print, I shall try hard to get on in reading: for though I only knew my letters, last night, after persevering a little, I made out two or three verses; and I mean to continue spending my evenings in the same manner."

Godalming Ladies', 1815.—"A poor man, who had lately learned the value of the Bible, and could not read, determined to teach himself; and bought a Testament of a neighbour for a shilling, just before the commencement of this Association, and then began immediately to subscribe for a Bible: he has now, with much diligence and perseverance, learned to read; and his wife, who cannot yet read herself, says her husband is never happy if he does not read a chapter or two every evening to his family. The instructions and comfort which they continually derive from reading their Bible, are their chief delight and subject of conversation."

Ditto.—"Another poor man and his wife, who have received a Bible, became very desirous of learning to read, and have now begun: the man, especially, is so earnest, that when he has not much time to read in the evening, he will rise earlier in the morning, and has been seen at five o'clock pursuing his object: the neighbours remark, that this man has not been to the public-house so much since he has been learning to read."

Bristol, 1813.—Extract of a letter from a clergyman at Mitchel Dean, Gloucestershire.—"I was obliged to transfer nearly all the Testaments for the use of my Sunday School, which has increased wonderfully in number. At the time of my former application I had only about forty children; but since that time more than 500 have been entered on the books: 221 appeared at school last Sunday, and I may reckon on nearly 400 who attend at one time or other; though the scattered state of the population and distant residence are frequent hindrances. A few live near the school, but many more come five miles by eight o'clock in the morning. Among them are several lads nearly grown up to manhood, who have bought Bibles of me with their own earnings. Two years ago they were perfectly ignorant and vicious: now they are an advantage instead of a nuisance to society; have gained a taste for reading; and have learned to value that blessed book, which, it may be hoped, will be a lamp to their path through life. The spirit of inquiry for Bibles has appeared only within these last few months."

Present state of gratuitous Education in Great Britain and Ireland.

Bristol, 1815.—"In the course of the present year upwards of one hundred persons have been supplied with the Scriptures, who have been taught to read in the Adult Schools. The Association has likewise been made useful in a collateral way, by furnishing those schools with learners. A single member of one of your Sub-Committees recommended twenty-six persons out of one street; eighteen of whom, he afterwards found, attended the schools."

Cork Ladies', 1818.—"An interesting account has been lately received from an officer on board the Dorothy convict-ship, off Rio Janeiro; mentioning, that twenty-five convicts, who did not know a letter in the alphabet on leaving Ireland, are now reading their Bibles with so much attention, that there is reason to hope, through the Divine blessing, the good seed has been sown in their hearts. He adds, that some Bibles have been cheerfully purchased; and that a general anxiety has been evinced to possess that greatest of earthly treasures, the Word of GOD."

In connexion with this branch of the subject, it appears important to consider the increased facilities now given to the work of gratuitous education in Great Britain and Ireland:—

I. According to the Ninth Annual Report of the *National Society*, the number of children, in 1614 schools, connected with that institution, exceeds	220,000
II. By the Report of the Minutes of Evidence before the Committee of the House of Commons on Education, published in 1820, we may safely estimate the number of schools on the *British system* at 300, and the number of children at	60,000
III. On a moderate computation, the number of children in England and Wales receiving daily instruction by means of *Benevolent Societies* and individuals, and not included in either of the preceding returns, is	50,000
IV. The parochial and Gaelic schools of *Scotland* contain at least	60,000
V. On the authority of the Right Hon. *M. Fitzgerald*, in his speech on the state of education in Ireland, 1st March, 1821, there are in that country no less than 3776 schools, containing	253,000
VI. The Annual Report of the *Sunday-School Union*, for 1820, contains a specification of 4,226 *Sunday Schools* in Great Britain and Ireland; and estimates the number of children at 427,553. If from this number we deduct one-third, as being, probably, included under the preceding heads, there remain about	280,000
Aggregate number of children receiving daily or weekly gratuitous instruction . .	923,000

The impression which such a statement is calculated to make on the reflecting mind, will derive tenfold strength from the consideration of those facts which have recently been brought before the public by Mr. Montague, Mr. Brougham, and other enlightened

philanthropists;—facts which incontrovertibly establish a truth of equal importance to the statesman, the patriot, and the Christian; that ignorance is the parent and the nurse of crime; and that education, on the basis of the Bible, is the foundation of individual happiness and of national morality, strength, and safety.

5. That the intimate knowledge of the actual state of the labouring classes, acquired by means of Bible Associations, has been made conducive to the relief of their temporal necessities, is a fact which every Collector can testify. Of this result, the following extracts afford a satisfactory evidence:—

Southampton, 1817.—"It has been gratifying to your Committee to observe, that the interests of general benevolence have been promoted by the efforts of the Ladies' Bible Association; many miserable and destitute persons having, by their means, been sought out and assisted, with that prudent discrimination which alone entitles to the name of charity the aid that is bestowed on the necessitous."

Jersey Ladies', 1820.—"It may not be irrelevant here to remark, although unconnected with the immediate object of the society, that whilst administering to the mental wants of their fellow-creatures, their bodily necessities have not been overlooked; and that many a poor family has been fed and clothed, whose miseries would have remained unknown, but for the visits of your members in their official capacity."

Poole Ladies', 1819.—"The constant visits of the Collectors to the habitations of the poor, have rendered them more familiar with the wants and woes of their fellow-creatures; and this has awakened fresh anxiety for their relief; many of whom, in consequence of their repeated and friendly visits, have acquired habits of greater neatness in their persons and houses: and the distresses of some, whose modesty had prevented a voluntary disclosure of them, have thus been discovered, and effectually relieved."

Rochdale, 1820.—"In the judgment of your Committee, the system of Ladies' Bible Associations is, perhaps, as perfect as any ever devised by the ingenuity of benevolence. The habitations of a large population are almost instantly visited, and the want of Bibles ascertained:—the mode of payment is so adapted to the circumstances of the poor—expectation precedes the possession of the sacred volume—a friendly intercourse is maintained—so many sympathies are, on the one hand, awakened, and on the other, such gratitude is excited, that every unprejudiced mind must admit, that, while hardier frames are employed in more distant and public work, the female sex are most suitable distributors of domestic charity. Your Committee, in recalling to your minds the Report of the Ladies, merely to answer an objection to weekly contributions from the poor in this season of distress, would point out this circumstance, that though you have heard what sum has been received from the poor, you have not been told what benefits, in a thousand forms, the Agents of the Association have bestowed on the objects of their weekly visits."

Plymouth Ladies', 1820.—"Of the collateral benefits of your institution, there is no one more striking, nor of which the Collectors speak with greater confidence, than the opportunities afforded, by their regular visits among the poor, of discovering and relieving *real distress*. Many an unrecorded instance of this will recur to the recollection of the Collectors; which, if it speak not to the public, furnishes to individual consciousness a most satisfactory pledge that its labours have not been in vain. It is by means of these visits to the poor, that their characters are developed; that it becomes

possible to distinguish between the worthless and the deserving—between the clamorous mendicant and the unobtrusive sufferer. Acting upon this conviction, the Gentlemen of the Committee for relieving the distresses of the poor in Dock and Stoke, during the late severe season, requested the assistance of the Collectors of the respective Associations—satisfied that no other persons had such opportunities of becoming acquainted with the individual necessities of the families in their districts; and consequently, none would be so little liable to imposition in the distribution of the funds raised for their relief.—Your Committee would here lay before you one or two circumstances corroborative of the foregoing remarks.—'In prosecuting their inquiries in one house, the Collectors found a poor woman who procured her subsistence by knitting, in which employment she sometimes earned two shillings per week, ninepence of which she paid for rent: she had neither bedding nor fire, although it was during the inclemency of winter. Her distress, which was previously unknown to any one, was relieved by the immediate supply of a bed and blanket, and some small allowance from the parish. A loan Testament was also placed in her hands. Her health, which had suffered considerably, was gradually re-established, and she enjoyed a comparative state of comfort. On again seeing the Ladies, she burst into tears of gratitude, and said, The LORD must have directed their steps to her dwelling, to preserve her from perishing from want.'"

The Collectors of another Association report, that, "going into a room to inquire if the inhabitants of it possessed the sacred scriptures, they were struck with the appearance of a boy, about sixteen years of age, sitting silently by the fire-side, whom they discovered to be totally blind, having lost the organ of vision in infancy. On entering into conversation with him, they found him possessed of a mind susceptible of cultivation: he expressed an ardent desire to be led to the house of GOD; and his mother remarked, that he often bitterly lamented, when the bell sounded from a neighbouring church, that the want of clothes prevented him from going with the multitude to keep holy-day. On making his situation known, he was soon furnished with necessary apparel; and has ever since been a regular and constant attendant at church. He has been admitted into a Sunday-School, where his conduct is exemplary, and his progress rapid: he has committed to memory the whole of one of the Epistles, several chapters of Isaiah, and many of the Psalms." It will gratify the reader to learn, that, through the continued exertions of those benevolent Ladies, this poor boy is about to be admitted into an asylum for the blind, in order to gratify his earnest desire to acquire the means of contributing towards his own support.

Boston, 1819.—"By weekly visits to such poor families as are subscribing for Bibles, the Collectors have obtained a full acquaintance, not only with their moral wants, but with their temporal domestic wants likewise. *These* wants have also been supplied: the various distresses of numbers have been greatly alleviated: the sick have been furnished with medicine; the hungry have been fed, and the naked have been clothed. A CLOTHING SOCIETY also has been formed, and is principally supported by the Ladies, who are active members of the Association."

6. A striking improvement has been witnessed in the domestic habits of the poor: and in no respect is it more conspicuously manifested than by an increased attention to cleanliness and decorum.

Dudley, 1813.—The Rev. Dr. Booker, the highly-respected Vicar of this extensive parish, observed, at the General Meeting of the Worcester Auxiliary Society—"On going among the dwellings of the poor, our Committee

soon began to remark a difference between those families who possessed a Bible and those who were destitute of it; so striking a difference, that, on entering any house, we could generally tell, without making an inquiry, whether it contained a Bible or not: for, with few exceptions, where the Bible was not, cleanliness was not; but every thing, both in person and apartment, that is squalid and disgusting. On the contrary, among persons of the same trade or calling, wherever the Book of GOD blessed the humble dwelling, every thing seemed sanctified by it: every thing was clean; every thing 'decent and in order.' He, then, must be a bad politician, and a worse philosopher, who has to learn what a close alliance there is between foul habits and religious ignorance."

Lyme, 1819.—"The Ladies have, with the utmost pleasure, observed, that the poor in general subscribe with the greatest cheerfulness; and that, on the day when the Collectors are expected, in many instances both persons and houses are cleaned in readiness to receive the visitors."

Plymouth Ladies', 1819.—"The conviction once established, that the Collectors have no other aim in their visits than the good of their subscribers, enables them to recommend with effect, improved habits of decency and cleanliness. In these particulars, many of their apartments present a striking contrast to what they did at first; and, in some cases, the poor have not been backward to acknowledge, with gratitude, the increased comfort which they have derived from attention to their friendly hints."

Daventry Ladies', 1820.—"It is really comfortable," observed a poor woman to one of the Collectors, "to see the change since last year. So many used to be either standing at their doors, or running about the streets, on a Sunday evening, who are now shut in their houses, reading the Bible to their families."

Seven Dials', *Westminster*, 1816.—"One person, who formerly employed the hours of the LORD'S-DAY in reading a Sunday newspaper, has relinquished his usual gratification, and has devoted his time and money to the purchase and study of a Bible: his wife has burnt the objectionable books they before possessed, in the presence of her husband; and he, who once delighted in them, now reads his Bible, and attends the house of GOD, which he had before forsaken."

Blackfriars, &c. London, 1816.—"Several very wicked and profane persons, who habitually worked together, were persuaded to join your Association. No sooner had they received a Bible, than one person read aloud, for the benefit of the rest, while they partook of their meals. Doubtless, curiosity at first induced the perusal; but after that stimulus subsided, they continued the practice, till they gradually discovered that there is a divine reality in the Bible, which they had never before suspected. An important alteration was soon evident in the conduct and conversation of several of these persons: they were induced statedly to read the Bible for themselves, to fear an oath, and to frequent the house of GOD."

Liverpool Ladies', 1819.—"A woman has given up the ruinous practice of drinking spirits; and her whole conduct appears to have been altered: her cellar and children are now clean and neat. She is subscribing for a Bible, and is often found reading the Testament. Her husband has become a regular attendant on public worship, and assists in raising the weekly subscription, which at first he opposed."

7. It is to Bible Associations we are indebted, if not for the absolute origin of SAVINGS BANKS, at least for their general extension; and for the disposition excited in the labouring classes to avail themselves of the advantages afforded by those admirable institu-

tions, and by establishments of a kindred nature. The following extracts will afford a gratifying illustration of these remarks :—

Liverpool, Ladies', 1819.—"Often, upon a first visit to an abode of penury and wretchedness, has a Collector been reminded, that it was more becoming in her to give than to receive; and that to raise a penny per week for any other article than food or raiment was wholly impossible: but when she has once succeeded in convincing the inhabitants that she has sought only their welfare; and has kindly directed them how to provide, by a prudent disposal of their income, for their own comfort and that of their families; not only has the weekly penny been easily spared for a Bible, but, in many instances, the Collector has afterwards been requested to receive even a shilling a-week in the summer, as a provision for the temporal wants which might be felt in the winter: thus the poor have been essentially served, by being taught to help themselves. As the confidence in the Ladies, on the part of the subscribers, has increased, so generally has this disposition been manifested, that the Committees of several Associations, whose districts are inhabited principally by the labouring classes, have deemed it expedient to form themselves into SOCIETIES FOR SAVINGS: and in the Harrington Association alone, independently of money for Bibles, more than 220*l.* has been deposited, in small sums, for blankets, coals, and the Savings Bank."

Plymouth Ladies', 1820.—"Your Committee have great pleasure in stating, that the hope expressed in their last Report, that the Associations established in these towns might operate in promoting habits of saving among the lower classes, has been justified by the successful formation of a society for the direct and express purpose of assisting the poor in making some provision, during the time they are regularly employed, for the hardships of the winter-season. The "PLYMOUTH PROVIDENT SOCIETY," established early in the spring, has already two hundred and sixty-seven depositors, whose weekly savings are collected by Ladies, on a plan similar to that of the Associations: and from the eagerness with which it has been met by the poor, your Committee are confirmed in their anticipation, that the habit once formed, its application to other objects will easily and naturally follow."

8. It has been well remarked, that every feeling inspired by the operations of a Bible Association, is on the side of virtue and independence; and forms a strong preservative against that mean, selfish, and degraded spirit, to which a great part of the miseries of the ignorant and profligate are owing. In no respect has the justice of this observation been more decisively proved, than in the loyalty and good order which have characterized the members of these institutions, in every part of our country :—

"It is a well-authenticated fact," observe the Committee of the Sherborne Branch Society, "that wherever the Bible Society has conveyed her living stream, the demoralising effects of sedition and tumult have been crushed; so that *not one of her members* has been identified with those who have evinced insubordination to the government under which we enjoy so many real blessings; but have been found cultivating peace on earth and good-will towards men. If we look, therefore, only to our own domestic advantages, the preservation of our youth, the tranquillity and prosperity of our empire, we cannot but solicit all who have put their hands to this good work to be steadfast and unmoveable."

9. It will readily be believed, that the influence of a cause productive of effects like these must extend beyond the immediate

objects, and manifest its practical tendency in the feelings and disposition of the agents. That such has been the result, the following extracts will be a sufficient evidence:—

Plymouth Ladies', 1819.—"Nor have the advantages resulting from these visits of mercy been wholly confined to the *poor*: the Collectors feel, that *they* too have to acknowledge their obligations:—valuable lessons of contentment, patience, and resignation, have been learnt in these abodes of poverty:—the opportunity of doing good has been the blessed opportunity of purchasing pure and elevated pleasures:—and some of your Collectors have traced their first feelings of genuine benevolence to the knowledge thus acquired of the actual degree of wretchedness existing among so many of their fellow-creatures, of which before they had formed but a faint and inoperative conception."

Liverpool Ladies', 1820.—"The Collectors have not only been cheered by observing the happy effects of their labours upon others, but also by perceiving the blessing return to themselves. The question naturally suggests itself, 'If a knowledge of the Bible which I distribute is essential to the present and future happiness of others, is it not equally so to mine?' They have hence been induced, in more instances than one, to 'search the Scriptures' with personal interest; and two Collectors, who now rest from their labours, left behind them an undisputed testimony, that, having been first led by this consideration to an attentive examination of the contents of the sacred volume, under the blessing of God, they found them able to make them 'wise unto salvation.'"

10. "Nothing," said an estimable Clergyman to the author of this work, "nothing of an earthly nature has ever tended more to strengthen my hands, than the Ladies' Bible Association of my parish. I behold its fruits everywhere. I see them budding in my school; I behold them ripening in my daily visits to my people; but, above all, I see them matured as I sit beside the dying Christian—poor in this world's wealth, but '*rich in faith*.' And let me add, that my congregation has materially increased since the establishment of this blessed Society."

11. To these testimonies, it only remains to add that which crowns the whole. Let us follow the Bible to the *bed of suffering and of death*; and trace it in its sacred office, under the regenerating and sanctifying influence of that Holy Spirit by which it was dictated in mercy and applied in love. *Here* the believing heart finds an answer to the all-important question, "*What is truth?*"—*Here* the vain delusions of the world, its cares, its sorrows, and its joys, assume their real value:—*Here* nothing can satisfy, console, and animate, but that which comes from Him who triumphed over death. If the Bible can mitigate the calamities of life, where is the philanthropist who would withhold the balm? If it can disarm the king of terrors, and dispel the last cloud that hangs upon the confines of mortality, where is the Christian who would not fly to introduce the messenger of joy and peace?

The Committee of the *North-West London* Auxiliary Society, in their Report for 1819, communicate the following particulars, as detailed by the Collectors of a district in the *Cavendish-Square* Association:—

Influence of the Holy Scriptures, in Suffering and the approach of Death.

"A young man was found, in dying circumstances, in a dark back room. The whole external scene was that of poverty, affliction, and woe: but the state of his mind was a foretaste of heaven. All within was calm and happy. His hope was beyond the grave: and the peace of GOD, which passeth all understanding, kept his heart and mind in holy tranquillity and joy. When inquiry was made by what means he had attained to this happy state of mind, it was ascertained that a little girl, of ten years of age, had been accustomed daily to read to him in a Bible, which she had received from this Association. This enabled him patiently to bear his adversity: he believed the word of GOD; and its holy influence imparted happiness in misery, riches in poverty, joy in sorrow, and life in death."

In concluding this Chapter, the author cannot deny himself the pleasure of adding another testimony to the sufficiency of the holy scriptures, as delivered by his valued friend Dr. Olinthus Gregory, of the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, at the Fourth Annual Meeting of the Blackheath Auxiliary Society. While it exemplifies the awful but sustaining truth, that "*he that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself,* may it incite us to increased and persevering exertion in making known to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people, that Record which He hath given us—"*And this is the Record, that* GOD *hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son!*"—

"Immersed, as I long have been, and sinking, as I sometimes feel myself, under the pressure of numerous duties and avocations, it has not been my lot to visit the abodes of adversity and want so frequently as some of my respected friends near me. Nevertheless, I have sometimes seen the power of religion exemplified among those whom the kindness of others has furnished with the Word of God; and the remarkable instance to which I now advert, I would fain describe, though I feel myself utterly incompetent to do it justice.

"More than twelve months ago, I went, pursuant to the request of a poor but benevolent woman in my neighbourhood, to visit an indigent man, greatly afflicted. On entering the cottage, I found him alone; his wife having gone to procure him milk from a kind neighbour. I was startled at the sight of a pale emaciated man, a living image of death, fastened upright in his chair by a rude mechanism of cords and belts hanging from the ceiling. He was totally unable to move either hand or foot; having, *for more than four years,* been entirely deprived of the use of his limbs; yet the whole time suffering extreme anguish from swellings at all his joints. As soon as I had recovered a little from my surprise at seeing so pitiable an object, I asked, 'Are you left alone, my friend, in this deplorable situation?'—'No, Sir,' replied he, in a touchingly feeble tone of mild resignation (nothing but his lips and eyes moving while he spake), 'I am not alone, for GOD is with me.' On advancing, I soon found the secret of this striking declaration; for his wife had left on his knees, propped with a cushion formed for the purpose, a Bible, lying open at a favourite portion of the Psalms of David. I sat down by him, and conversed with him. On ascertaining that he had but a

small weekly allowance *certain*, I inquired how the remainder of his wants were supplied. 'Why, Sir,' said he, 'tis true, as you say, seven shillings a-week would never support us: but, when it is gone, I rely upon the promise I find in this Book, 'Bread shall be given him, and his water shall be sure.' I asked him, if he ever felt tempted to repine, under the pressure of so long-continued and heavy a calamity? 'Not for the last three years,' said he; 'blessed be GOD for it!'—the eye of faith sparkling, and giving life to his pallid countenance, while he made the declaration;—'for I have learned in this Book in whom to believe: and though I am aware of my weakness and unworthiness, I am persuaded that he will never leave me nor forsake me. And so it is, that often when my lips are closed with locked-jaw, and I cannot speak to the glory of GOD, he enables me to sing his praises in my heart.'

"This, and much more, did I hear during my first visit: and, in my subsequent visits (for I am not ashamed to say, that often, for my own benefit, have I gone to the cottage of this afflicted man), I generally found him with his Bible on his knees, and uniformly witnessed the like resignation flowing from the blessing of GOD upon the constant perusal of his Holy Word. He died with a hope full of immortality, and is now gone to the '*rest that remaineth for the people of God.*' And gladly would I sink into the obscurity of the same cottage, gladly even would I languish in the same chair, could I but enjoy the same uninterrupted communion with God, be always filled with the same strong consolation, and always behold with equally vivid perception sparkling before me, the same celestial crown.

"What, I would ask, what but the heartfelt influence of the truths of religion, what but the most decided faith in the promises of the Gospel, could enable a man to sustain such a continuity of affliction, not merely with tranquillity, but with thankfulness? And what can convince an individual of the utility, nay, the duty, of distributing Bibles among the indigent, who does not become persuaded by such an example as this? for all this poor man's knowledge, and all his internal comfort, were derived from the Word of God!"

CHAP. VIII.

CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS.

"LET ALL THINGS BE DONE DECENTLY AND IN ORDER."
1 *COR.* XIV. 40.

SECTION I.

HINTS RELATIVE TO THE DUTIES THAT DEVOLVE ON THE OFFICERS AND COLLECTORS OF BIBLE ASSOCIATIONS.

THE following suggestions are respectfully submitted to those who superintend and conduct the operations of these important Institutions; under a hope that they may facilitate their proceedings, and explain every point of apparent difficulty. In many of them, a degree of repetition, and a minuteness of detail, will be observed: but these defects appear of minor consequence, when compared with the advantages to be derived from a clear and accurate knowledge of the system.

Those passages in the Hints to the Officers which are in *Italics,* are exclusively applicable to Associations connected with a Ladies' Branch. In every case where difficulty was anticipated, a note has been subjoined; and it is hoped the purport has been rendered sufficiently clear to explain the mode pursued in all Bible Associations, however constituted, and whether conducted by Ladies or Gentlemen.

*** *All the Specimens referred to will be found in Chap.* VII. *Section* V., *unless it be stated to the contrary.*

I.—PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENTS.

1. The President of a Bible Association may render essential services to the cause, by attending the Meetings, and taking the chair of the Committee.

2. A similar remark is applicable to the VICE-PRESIDENTS, one of whom occupies the chair in the President's absence.

3. Punctuality of attendance is highly desirable, not only as an example to the other members, but that the business may commence precisely at the hour appointed, and much valuable time be saved.

4. In the circles wherein they move, these officers may materially promote the object of the Institution, by circulating information on the subject, and correcting erroneous impressions. It is

scarcely necessary to add, that they will be better qualified to effect this if they regularly attend the meetings of the Committee, and judge for themselves.

II.—TREASURER.

The only book of which the Treasurer takes charge is the small Cash-Book—*Specimen No.* XXII.

The duties of the Treasurer are as follow:—

At a Committee-Meeting—

1. In the absence of the President and Vice-Presidents, to take the chair, and preserve order.

2. To be intimately acquainted with the several duties of the Minute, Cash, and Bible Secretaries; and with the regular order of proceeding at a Committee-meeting.

3. To regulate the proceedings by the Agenda, or paper of business (*See Specimen, No.* XII.), then laid before the chair by the Minute Secretary.

4. When a resolution has been moved and seconded, to request the opinion of the Committee by a shew of hands, both for and against.

5.* While the Minute Secretary reads the Collectors' Reports, the Treasurer (if not in the chair) will observe that the Testaments LENT are accounted for; make out a list of applications for LOANS; and, when voted by the Committee, fill up tickets for their delivery, and give them to the Collectors. When the Treasurer presides, she requests one of the Collectors to sit at the table, and perform this duty. The regularity and decorum of the meeting should constitute the sole object of attention with the individual who presides.

6. To sign the Cash Secretary's statement, after having compared it with the entries in her own book.

7. † *The Treasurer is recommended to fill up her Monthly Report to the Ladies' Branch* (see Specimen, No. XXIII.) *before she leaves the table of the Association Committee; or to fix a time of meeting with the Secretaries for this purpose. A duplicate copy of this Report should be handed to the Minute Secretary, to paste into the Report Book.*

8. *The Treasurer to consider herself, upon all subjects before the* BRANCH *Committee, as the representative of her Association; and as such, present, monthly, a Report; and pay over the amount voted by her Committee to the Cash Secretary of the Ladies' Branch.*

* This hint is, of course, inapplicable to those Associations which have not adopted the plan of a Loan Fund.

† Should the plan of transmitting Monthly Reports to the Auxiliary (or Branch) Societies with which they are connected, be hereafter adopted by any Associations, this suggestion will be equally applicable to them.

9. * *The money voted should be paid to the Cash Secretary of the Ladies' Branch only at the Branch Committee-meetings.*

10. The Treasurer is particularly requested, never to pay any money until furnished by the Minute Secretary with a copy of the vote of the Committee authorising such payment. This copy to be filed as a voucher.

III.—MINUTE SECRETARY.

The Minute Secretary takes charge of the "Rough Minute Book," the "Fair Minute Book," and the "Report Book" (*see Specimens, No.* XI. *and No.* XIII.); and is considered the Depositary for all the books and papers required by the Collectors, except those relating to the delivery of Bibles and Testaments.

Her duties are,—

At a Committee-Meeting—

1. To place the Agenda, or paper of business, previously prepared, before the Lady who presides.

2. To take up the business from the minutes of the last meeting, when they have been read by the Bible Secretary; and either report each of them "Complied with," or move "That it be continued."

3. To call for the Treasurer's Report; read, and attach the same to the Rough Minute Book.

4. To call for the Cash Secretary's Monthly Statement; read, and attach it to the Rough Minute Book.

5. To call for the Bible Secretary's Report; read, and attach it to the Rough Minute Book.

N. B. If what is termed "a Guard Book" be procured by the Minute Secretary, and these Reports be pasted in it, in regular order, after every Committee-meeting, it will save considerable time in copying; as a reference to the page of the Guard Book will be quite sufficient to insert in the Fair Minute Book.

6. To call for Reports from the Collectors of each District, beginning with No. 1, and read *audibly* the amount of "Free Contributions," "Bible Subscriptions," and "Total;" with the other particulars on the first page; then the "Facts and Observations:" and, if correctly filled up, proceed to reverse them successively upon the table, separating those which require observation, to be read and considered subsequently, whilst the Cash Secretary is adding up her columns.

7. To move that the Reports then read be received.

8. † To read over the list of Loans applied for, and move that they be granted.

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* In reference to Associations connected directly with an Auxiliary (or Branch) Society, the Treasurer remits the money to the Cash Secretary of such Society, and requests an acknowledgment of the remittance.

† Where the Loan Fund is not established, this suggestion is, of course, inapplicable.

9. To inquire if any member of the Committee wish to propose any Lady as a Collector or Visitor. The absent person, being proposed and seconded by Ladies who know her, will be received by vote of the Committee, and immediately appointed to a district.

10. To report any vacant districts, in order that they may be supplied with Collectors.

11. To propose new business.

12. To call for the Cash Secretary's Report; and move that the amount be paid over to the Treasurer.

13.*To move that the Treasurer pay over a certain even sum to the Cash Secretary of the *Ladies' Branch.*

14. To inquire if any Lady have any new business to propose.

15. To read over the Minutes of the meeting before the Committee separate.

After a Committee-Meeting—

1. To copy the Minutes into the Fair Minute Book; and enter into the Report Book all the important "Facts and Observations" contained in the Reports of that month; and afterwards file the Reports, date them, and preserve them, with all other documents belonging to the Association.

2. To copy, and send to the Treasurer, the Minute authorising her to make every payment; to the Cash Secretary, a copy of the Minute authorising payments to the Treasurer; to the Minute Secretary *of the Ladies' Branch,*† a copy of any Minute requiring her attention; and to every other person whom it may concern, a copy of the Minute specifying the duty to be discharged by such person.

3. To give the Collectors any instructions they may require relative to their duties; to supply them with Visiting and Collecting Books (*see No.* I. *and No.* II.), and all other requisites suited to their several districts.

4. To keep a small assortment of the various kinds of papers for the use of the Collectors, and appoint a time when they may be delivered.

5. To issue all notices of Special Committee-meetings.

6. *When the District Committee of the Ladies' Branch are assembled to draw up their Monthly Report (each furnishing her quota), the Minute Secretary is to write it; filling up the blanks contained in the printed form, and selecting the most interesting facts for insertion.*

7. *A copy of the District Committee's Report, as above, is to be*

* It is evident, that in reference to Associations connected directly with an Auxiliary (or Branch) Society, this vote will be so expressed. In these cases the remittance is made to the Cash Secretary of the Auxiliary (or Branch) Society, and an acknowledgment requested, which is preserved as a voucher by the Treasurer of the Association.

† Or, the Secretary of the Auxiliary (or Branch) Society, in cases where no Ladies' Branch intervenes.

entered regularly in the "Report Book," or a duplicate copy attached by white wafers in its proper place; and the Report is to be presented, by the Minute Secretary, to the Ladies' Branch.

8. *It is recommended that the Treasurer and Secretaries prepare their Monthly District Reports to the Ladies' Branch, before they leave the table of the Association Committee, or fix a time of meeting for this purpose.*

9. The Minute Secretary, with the assistance of the other officers, or of a Sub-Committee appointed for that purpose, usually writes the Annual Report (*see No.* XXV.), and submits it to the Committee; and when approved, forwards a copy of the same to the Minute Secretary of the *Ladies' Branch.*

* Previous to a Public Distribution—

1. To give notice to the Minute Secretary of the *Ladies' Branch,* if possible a month previously, of an intended public distribution; and request a supply of Collectors' Lists, free contributors' tickets, and handbills.

2. To give a "Collector's List" to every Collector, two or three weeks previous to a public distribution; with a charge that such list be filled up, and sent to the Bible Secretary, at least a week before the day appointed for the public distribution.

N. B. If the regular Committee-meeting be two or three weeks previous to a public distribution, the "Lists" may be given to the Collectors after the usual business has been disposed of.

3. To disperse the hand-bills and free contributors' tickets, through the medium of the Collectors; and have some handbills placarded.

4. To request the assistance of the District Committee of the Auxiliary Society in conducting the public distribution; and to send invitations to such other Gentlemen as may be deemed suitable, inviting them to take part in the business.

5. *To give intimation of the distribution, if possible, at the preceding Branch Committee; if not, to forward a copy of the handbill to each member.*

IV.—CASH SECRETARY.

The Cash Secretary takes charge of the "Cash Book," and of the "Free Contributors' Book" (*see Specimens, Nos.* XV. *and* XVI.):

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* These suggestions are of course inapplicable where the mode of public distribution is not adopted. In Associations conducted by *Gentlemen,* the Secretaries, or a Sub-Committee appointed for the purpose, make the preliminary arrangements. In *Ladies'* Associations connected directly with an Auxiliary (or Branch) Society, the Secretaries, or a Sub-Committee of such Society, discharge this duty. *See Section* III. *of this Chapter.*

she also receives from the Minute Secretary a stock of printed forms of the Collectors' Monthly Reports, and the requisite number of the "Extracts of Correspondence," monthly.

Her duties are,—

In reference to a Committee-Meeting,—

1. To provide a suitable room for the meeting of the Committee; regularly to see that it is prepared for their reception at the appointed hour; and to defray all incidental expenses attending it.

2. To bring the Cash Book, for the purpose of entering the cash then delivered; and the duplicate bags, ready to return to the Collectors; each containing one blank form of the Monthly District Report; and so many copies of the last number of the "Monthly Extracts" as will furnish one to each Collector of the district, and to every free contributor of 10*s.* 6*d.* and upwards per annum;* and place the said bags before the Bible Secretary.

3. To present the Monthly Statement of the Funds of the Association, signed by the Treasurer and herself, when called for by the Minute Secretary.—*See No.* XVII.

4. To enter the sums in the Cash Book, as read by the Minute Secretary, under the respective heads of "Free," "Bibles," and "Total;" and immediately after the Reports are concluded, add up the columns, compare the amount with the Bible Secretary, and report as follows:—

Received this Month,

In Free Contributions, £.			
In Bible Subscriptions, £.			
Total . . £.			

5.† To take charge of the free contributors' transfer tickets (*see No.* VI.) presented by the Collectors; afterwards mark every contributor who has removed into *another* Association, as "removed," in the "Free Contributors' Book;" and pass the ticket to the Collectors of the district, or to the Cash Secretary of the Association in which the person now resides.

6. To pay all incidental expenses of the Society; enter the amount in the "Cash Book" (*see Fourth Specimen of No.* XV.); and bring in her account quarterly to the Committee.

7. To take home the Collectors' Reports from the Committee,

* In many Associations, a few additional copies are placed in the bag, which the Collectors *lend* to their free contributors of smaller sums. This has been attended with the most gratifying results, and is strongly recommended to other Associations.

† Where the plan of "Transfer Tickets" is not adopted, this hint is inapplicable.

check the amount in the "Cash Book," enter the new free contributors, mark the Reports in one corner C. S., and forward them to the Bible Secretary.

8. To take home the bags containing the money; re-examine the respective amounts; and, if incorrect, have the error rectified by the Collectors of the district; pay over the total amount to the Treasurer; and put a blank form of the District Report, and the requisite number of copies of the last sheet of "Monthly Extracts," in each bag, ready for the next meeting.

9. In every press of business, the Cash Secretary (whose duties are the least arduous) will assist the Minute and Bible Secretaries, when requested.

10. *At the meeting of the officers to draw up the Treasurer's and District Committee's Monthly Reports to the Ladies' Branch (see Nos.* XXIII. *and* XXIV.), *the Cash Secretary will supply the Treasurer, from her "Cash Book" with materials for her Report; and have inserted in the District Committee's Report the number of free contributors now on the books, and the total number since the establishment.*

11. *At the close of the year, the Cash Secretary furnishes to the Minute Secretary of the Ladies' Branch, a correct alphabetical list of all the free contributors of half-a-guinea and upwards per annum, to be published, under the head of the Association, in the Annual Report of the Ladies' Branch.**

12. *When the Annual Reports are printed, the Cash Secretary will apply to the Minute Secretary of the Ladies' Branch for the requisite number of copies; and see that they are properly distributed to each Collector, and, through the Collectors, to each anuual contributor of* 10*s.* 6*d. and upwards.*†

‡ Previous to a Public Distribution—

1. Preparatory to a public distribution, the Cash Secretary should request the Secretaries of the Auxiliary (or Branch) Society to provide a commodious room for the purpose; and to have it cleaned, aired, lighted, and properly furnished with benches, chairs, table, &c.; and, when the place is selected, inform the Minute Secretary, in order that it may be properly advertised.

2. To engage a person to attend at the door, who shall direct all persons furnished with public distribution tickets to seats reserved for them round the room; the benches across the middle being

* In Associations that are not connected with a Ladies' Branch, and in *all* Associations which publish their own Annual Reports, this list should be handed to the Minute Secretary, that it may be included in the Report.

† The Committees of Associations which print their Annual Reports, will find the mode of distributing them here recommended, the best calculated to ensure the supply of the free contributors. Dissatisfaction has been expressed in some places in consequence of the neglect of this duty.

‡ Where the mode of public distribution is not adopted, these hints are inapplicable.

appropriated to free contributors and the public, with a sufficient space between, for the subscribers to pass round the room to receive their Bibles.

N. B. Advantage has been derived, in many places, from supplying FREE CONTRIBUTORS with tickets of admission. *See Section* III. *of this Chapter.*

3.* To provide plates for receiving contributions at the door.

4. To receive the cash collected, pay the incidental expenses, and report and pay in the remainder at the next Committee-meeting; the amount to be entered in the Cash Book, at the end of the district numbers, as "Collection," and under the column "Free."

V.—BIBLE SECRETARY.

The Bible Secretary takes charge of the "Bible Book" (*see No.* XVIII.) and "Loan Fund Book" (*see No.* XXI.), and is considered the Depositary of all Bibles and Testaments for the use of the Association, as well as of the Loan Stock. She also takes charge of the books of tickets for the delivery of the Bibles and Testaments, whether by public or private distribution, the Loan Tickets, and the stamp for marking the Bibles and Testaments.†

Her duties are,—

At a Committee Meeting—

1. To call over the names of the members, and read the minutes of the last Meeting.

2. To present a Report monthly, when called for.—*See No.* XX.

N. B. The Bible Secretary will find it advantageous to fill up this Report on the day preceding the Committee-meeting; and, if a duplicate copy be preserved and filed, it will not only prevent trouble, but diminish the risk of error in preparing the subsequent Reports. It will also tend to facilitate the preparation of these Reports, if the Bible Secretary keep a loose sheet of paper in the Bible Book, for such memoranda as are supplied by the Collectors' Reports;—for instance, the number of new subscribers in the last month, the number of those who have discontinued, &c.

3. When the Minute Secretary calls for the bags, the Bible Secretary is to receive them in regular succession from the Collectors; return the duplicates containing the printed form of the Report, and the requisite number of copies of the last sheet of

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* This and the following suggestion are equally applicable in reference to *Annual* Meetings of Bible Associations generally.

† It will be perceived, that some parts of this observation are inapplicable to those Associations which do not adopt the "Loan Fund" plan, and others to those which do not hold Meetings for public distributions.

Monthly Extracts; count the money, write the totals on a slip of paper, return the cash into the bags, and tie them up. After adding up and comparing the total amount received with the Cash Secretary, the latter takes charge of the bags, money, and Reports.

4. *To lay before the Treasurer a list of the Bibles and Testaments LENT; that while the Reports are reading, she may observe if they are accounted for by the Collectors.

5. *To supply the Treasurer at the table with loan tickets (*see No.* VII.), that they may be filled up according to the loans then voted.

6. †To receive from the Collectors the Bible subscribers' duplicate Transfer Tickets (*see No.* VI. *Second Specimen*), and hand them over to the Collectors of the district into which the subscriber has removed. If the party have removed into another Association, the transfer ticket to be delivered to the Bible Secretary of such Association, *at the next meeting of the Ladies' Branch Committee.*

N.B. *All Bible Subscribers' Transfer Tickets received from the Secretaries of other Associations should be immediately filed till the end of the year.—See* VIth *Observation on No.* VI.

With respect to the Depository, to observe—

1. When a supply of Bibles and Testaments is required; to ascertain, by application to the Cash Secretary, the balance in the hands of the *Ladies' Branch,* which the amount of the order should never exceed; then fill up one of the orders (*see No.* XIX.), calculate the amounts, and send it to the Bible Secretary ‡ of the *Ladies' Branch.*

2. That the depository be regularly well supplied with the various descriptions of Bibles and Testaments required by subscribers, which should be all neatly stamped before putting them in their places.

3. To furnish the Collectors, on application, with Delivery Tickets (*see No.* VIII.) for the supply of the individuals who may require their copies previous to a public distribution, filling up the blanks in the tickets before they are delivered to the Collectors. ||

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* These suggestions are only applicable where the "Loan Fund" plan is adopted.

† This hint is, of course, confined to those Associations that adopt the plan of "Transfer Tickets."

‡ In reference to Associations connected directly with an Auxiliary (or Branch) Society, the order is directed to the Bible Secretary or Depositary of such Society.

|| If the number of Bibles and Testaments distributed privately be considerable, as well as in Associations which do not adopt the plan of public distributions, the Bible Secretary delivers to the Collectors of each district two *books* of these tickets (one of Bible and the other of Testament tickets), marked on the back with the number of the district. In all such cases the tickets are filled by the Collectors.

Bible Secretary's Duties—with respect to the Loan Fund.

4. That the checks be filed, and the blanks in the Bible Book opposite to the receiver's name filled up, *before* the Bible or Testament shall be delivered to the subscriber.

5. To receive the Collectors' Monthly Reports from the Cash Secretary, and regularly enter the names of new Bible subscribers in the Bible Book; mark the Reports in one corner B. S., and forward them to the Minute Secretary.

6. Every parcel of Bibles and Testaments sent from the *Ladies' Branch** to the Bible Secretary of an Association, ought to be accompanied by an invoice. (*See Specimen No.* 4, *Chap.* II. *Sect.* V.) The particulars of the Bibles and Testaments specified in this invoice should be immediately entered in her book (*see No.* XVIII. *Second Specimen*) by the Bible Secretary; who should then fold and indorse the invoice, and hand it to the Cash Secretary of the Association, by whom the amount is entered to the credit of the *Ladies' Branch.*†

7. Any damaged copies, or those which are badly or incorrectly bound, should be immediately returned to the Bible Secretary of the *Ladies' Branch*, and exchanged for perfect copies of the same description.

‡ With respect to the Loan Fund, to observe—

1. That the Loan Fund be kept distinct from the Depository; the Bibles and Testaments to be marked on the edges of the leaves, when shut, "LENT;" and on the ends, No. (*from one upwards*); and marked in the title-page according to the Loan-Fund Rules. —*See Section* II. *of this Chapter.*

2. The Loan Stock to be always supplied by means of a distinct subscription, separate from the funds of the Society; and the Bible Secretary to invest the amount in the purchase of Bibles and Testaments, at the reduced prices, at the Depository of the Auxiliary Society. The stock to be regularly entered in the "Loan Fund Book."—*See No.* XXI.

N. B. The subscription for the Loan Fund is generally raised at the first meeting of the Committee; and strangers who may be present are invited to contribute.

3. Frequently to inspect the Loan Stock; and apply to the Collectors for any Bibles or Testaments kept beyond the specified time without having been reported to the Committee. A regular entry to be made in the "Loan-Fund Book" (*see Second Specimen of No.* XXI.), opposite to the number of the copy, when it is returned, and an acknowledgment of its receipt given to the Collector.

N.B. It will save time and trouble if the Bible Secretary fill in the day and hours of delivery, in ALL the tickets, before they are used. The same time may be specified for Loans as for delivery to subscribers.

* Or from the Secretary, or Depositary, of an Auxiliary (or Branch) Society.

† Or of the Auxiliary (or Branch) Society.

‡ These observations are inapplicable to Associations which do not adopt the "Loan-Fund" system.

* Previous to a Public Distribution—

1. To get a sufficient supply of Bibles and Testaments in readiness, not only to answer the demands of the Collectors' lists, but a few of each sort in reserve, to answer any unexpected demand.

2. To receive the Collectors' lists; and fill up and give to each Collector, at or as soon as possible after the Committee-meeting preceding a public distribution, a sufficient number of Delivery Tickets, filled up according to such Collector's list, requesting the Collectors to sign them, and hand them to their subscribers.

3. To see the Bibles and Testaments arranged upon the table in front of the chair, each sort by itself, at least an hour before the time advertised for the meeting; and to place a list of the subscribers to be supplied before the Chairman.

4. Immediately after the meeting, to collect the remaining Bibles and Testaments, and the tickets, which should be afterwards filed in order. *See Section* II. *of this Chapter.*

VI.—† GENERAL HINTS TO THE OFFICERS.

I. It will be found to save considerable time, and to facilitate the business, if the Treasurer and Secretaries meet half an hour before the other members of the Committee. This is found particularly useful at the commencement of a Bible Association.

II. The Treasurer and Secretaries should each have a list of the Collectors and their residences, with a specification of the districts to which they are respectively attached; and any alterations should be promptly noticed in these lists.

III. The Secretaries will find it advantageous to paste the Rules and By-Laws, the Rules of the Loan Fund, and other official regulations, inside the covers of their account-books; and the Bible Secretary should have a specimen of the types pasted in the "Bible Book."

IV. The Cash and Bible Secretaries apply to the Minute Secretary, as the Depositary of the Association, for any books or papers they may require.

V. The quarterly examination of the Collecting Books, by calling them over with the Cash and Bible Secretaries' Books, should never be omitted. A special notice of this meeting should be sent to every Collector by the Minute Secretary.

VI. The Presidents, Treasurers, and Secretaries, of Bible Associations, should avail themselves of every suitable opportunity to impress on the minds of Collectors the importance of a steady

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* These suggestions, it will be perceived, are only applicable where the mode of public distribution is adopted.

† These hints are equally applicable to all Bible Associations.

adherence to the singleness and purity of the object embraced by the Bible Society. The conversation of Collectors with those on whom they call, should, if possible, be such as to preclude their knowing to what religious denomination the Collectors belong; while the latter should humbly and constantly endeavour to "*adorn the doctrine of God their Saviour in all things.*"

VII.—*COLLECTORS.

In reference to their Selection of Districts.

1. Some Ladies prefer collecting near home, and others select a more distant district. This is a matter of individual choice: but Collectors are strongly recommended to exercise caution; and having once chosen their district, not to allow any ordinary consideration to induce a change, which is equally injurious to themselves and to the cause. The poor, grateful for those visits of mercy, gradually become attached to the Collectors; but frequent change of districts impairs, if it do not destroy, this effect, with all its collateral advantages.

2. Similar caution is necessary in the selection of their colleagues. In these weekly visits, and in the considerations which they involve, friendship has found a powerful cement, and relative affection a new and sacred charm. But Ladies will find advantage in consulting the interests of the cause, rather than their own inclinations.

3. Many Ladies will find it necessary, at the commencement of an Association, to be on their guard against the temptation of *too extensive* usefulness. It is no uncommon circumstance to see a Collector volunteer for two or three districts, particularly when those already appointed to them are her intimate friends or relatives. But it will generally be found, that *one* moderately-sized district is a sufficient field of labour for mind and body; and, by confining her exertions within these limits, a Collector will rarely find her duties oppressive, but, on the contrary, a source of increasing interest and gratification. Volunteers for the *temporary* occupation of a district are, however, very desirable in some cases, but only until more permanent Collectors are obtained.

Visiting.

(*See Visiting Book, No.* I.)

1. Having been informed, by the Minute Secretary, of the day on which they are expected to commence their visits, the Lady

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* The alterations necessary in order to render these Hints applicable to *Gentlemen's* Associations, will suggest themselves to the reader's mind. Those which refer to the "Loan Fund," "TransferTickets," or "Public Distributions," are, of course, inapplicable where these parts of the system, respectively, are not adopted.

Collectors' Duties—as regards Visiting:

whose name stands first in the appointment will be furnished with the following Books, Papers, &c.; viz.

	Visiting Book	See No. I.
	Collecting Book	— II.
	Collecting Bag	— III.
	Form of Monthly Report	— X.
20	Bible Subscribers' Cards	— V.
6	Free Contributors' Transfer Tickets }	— VI.
12	Bible Subscriber's . . . Ditto . . . }	
6	Loan Tickets	— VII.
2	Specimens of Types . .	See Appendix, No. IV.
6	Copies of Rules and By-Laws.	See Sect. III. Chap. VII.
	An Assortment of Papers explanatory of the object for distribution.* }	See Appendix.

N.B. The uses of these several Books and Papers will be found detailed in the Observations prefixed to each Specimen.

2. Having arranged with each other the time for setting out, which should, if possible, be in the forenoon, the Collector to whom they are entrusted prepares the Visiting Book, a few Bible Subscriber's Cards (with the names and address of the Collectors written on the back), a Specimen of the Types, Copy of the Rules and By-Laws, and the papers for distribution (*see Appendix*), folded and arranged according to their various kinds. Of these last, Nos I. III. V. VI. and VII. will be found best adapted for circulation among the higher classes, and Nos. VIII. IX. and XII. most suitable for the poor; No. X. is specially addressed to Female Servants; and No. XI. to Mariners.

3. As one Collector never calls at the house of another for the purpose of soliciting contributions, the first names entered should be those of the members of the Collectors' families who may feel inclined to contribute.

4. To those benevolent Ladies who are in the habit of visiting the humble abodes of poverty and industry, it may appear superfluous to observe, that the slightest marks of attention and respect are peculiarly grateful to the poor: but as these hints are intended principally for those who have not yet acquired an intimate knowledge of this numerous class of their fellow creatures, it may not be unnecessary to remark, what experience will soon confirm, that the surest passport to the heart of the cottager is the evidence of interest and kindness.

5. In reference to the "Visiting Book," it will be understood, that the information required relative to the "Number who can read," &c. applies exclusively to the poor, and will be best attained by requesting to know how many *can* read; as few are

* Where the "Committee Card" (*see No.* IV.) is adopted, one should be given to each Collector; and, in Associations that do not hold public distributions, two books of "Delivery Tickets," (*see Specimen, No.* VIII.), one for Bibles, and the other for Testaments, are given to the Collectors of every district. This may be done in *all* Associations, if the number of Bibles and Testaments thus distributed be considerable.

willing to acknowledge they cannot, especially to strangers. To obtain this, and all other necessary information, Collectors should avoid the appearance of doing so formally, but suffer the conversation to lead naturally to those points.

6. While one Collector is conversing with the inhabitants, her colleague should select such paper or papers as appear suitable; and, if the party be not perfectly satisfied with the explanation of the object, an intimation should be given that the Collectors will call the ensuing Monday, when the perusal of the papers left may have given a more satisfactory view of the subject.

7. Collectors should be particularly careful not to offer Bibles or Testaments under *Cost prices*. When evident poverty and discouragement, on the part of the subscriber, render it expedient to deliver the copy before cost price has been paid, it should be done with a clear understanding that the subscription is to be renewed when ability admits.

To excite and perpetuate a habit of saving and economy, is one grand collateral benefit of Bible Associations; and it is evident that the longer this habit is fostered, the greater is the chance of its becoming a permanent principle of action. It is likewise an established fact, that Bibles which are *sold* are not only more prized, but *more read*.

8. Parents, who cannot read, should be encouraged to subscribe for Bibles and Testaments for their children who can; and a hint may be beneficially given, of the comfort of sitting down together of an evening, and hearing the child read the sacred volume to the assembled family.

9. The Specimen of the Types will enable subscribers to select the most suitable Bible or Testament: but children, and those whose sight is good, should not be encouraged to subscribe for the higher-priced editions.

10. While one of the Collectors enters the name, &c. of a Bible Subscriber, her colleague should fill up a card, *with ink;* insert the sum paid, opposite to the date; and explain the object of leaving it.

11. The object of the Bible Society should be fully stated, in plain, simple language; and any questions addressed to the Collectors should be kindly and patiently answered. The principal end of a first visit is to make the design of the Society clearly known.

12. The requisite particulars, and the amount of money received, should be correctly entered in the "Visiting Book," before leaving the house.

13. Collectors should endeavour to make the poor sensible of the privilege they enjoy, in being thus enabled to obtain so inestimable a treasure by such easy means.

Free Contributions.

1. These should *never* be accepted from persons who are receiving parochial relief; nor from that class of females too justly termed "unfortunate." But as suitable opportunities offer, both should be

encouraged to subscribe for Bibles, either at the cost or reduced prices, according to the discretion of the Collectors.

2. The Collectors should never accept free contributions from persons who appear doubtful as to the utility of the Society, without leaving some of the printed papers, to explain its nature, object, and results.

3. No one should be *importuned* to contribute. In all cases the application should be made in a respectful manner, and so as to convey a clear understanding, that while the Collector is fully convinced of the purity and importance of the cause, the most perfect liberty of judgment as to approval and co-operation is cheerfully allowed to all. At the same time, the object, tendency, and effects of the Society, should be fully explained.

4. Free contributors should be frequently told of the progress and success of the Society both at home and abroad. The last number of the "Extracts of Correspondence" should be regularly given to every free contributor of half-a-guinea and upwards per annum;* and to those who contribute smaller sums periodically, these interesting publications should be lent for two or three days monthly; each person being told to whom it is to be forwarded when read. One copy will thus suffice for several families; and its temporary possession is calculated to ensure its perusal.

5. Collectors should be particular in supplying their free contributors of half-a-guinea and upwards per annum with the Annual Reports of the Association, or of the Auxiliary (or Branch) Society with which it is connected. Occasional and annual publications of the Parent Institution may likewise be thus distributed, or lent, with considerable advantage.

6. Where a Lady appears suitable for the appointment, and is interested in the object, the Collectors should propose her admission on the Committee in their Monthly Report.

7. In soliciting free contributions from the labouring classes, a Collector should *never* make use of that influence which her station in life may be supposed to give her. The principle of Bible Associations excites and encourages a spirit of proper independence among the poor; and it is their free-will offerings alone that possess an intrinsic value. They should be taught, that the cause is one whose claims entitle it to support, and that their own gratification and interest are connected with it.

Collecting.

(*See No.* II. *Second Specimen.*)

1. On returning from their first visit to their district, the Collectors should *immediately* enter, from the "Visiting Book," the name

* It may be respectfully submitted to the free contributors, as suitable opportunities offer, that by lending the "Monthly Extracts," and the other publications of the Society, to their friends and acquaintance, they will essentially promote the interests of the institution.

and other particulars of every free contributor, and Bible subscriber, in the "Collecting Book." If the whole of the district be visited, the former may be carefully laid aside; but if not, it should be used until this be accomplished.

2. The "Collecting Book" is used *every week;* and it will save time if the Collectors take with it a few "Loan Tickets" and "Transfer Tickets."

3. The amount received should be immediately entered in the "Collecting Book," in the presence of the contributor or subscriber; and (with respect to the latter) a similar entry made in the "Bible Subscriber's" card. This may be done by one of the Collectors, while her colleague counts the money and puts it in the bag.

4. Although it may detain the Collectors a few moments, every question asked by the subscribers, relative to their subscription or to the Society, should be satisfactorily answered. Where implicit confidence is placed, this patient attention is due to the poor.

5. Collectors should never give money to the subscribers *for the purpose of aiding their subscription.* This partiality invariably occasions jealousy, and strikes at the root of a principle already adverted to—the personal independence of the poor. A judicious Collector will find many other opportunities of assisting a distressed family.

6. Having once fixed on the day and hour, weekly, for collecting, no ordinary circumstance should induce an alteration. Many advantages attend this adherence to PUNCTUALITY, both as it regards the Collectors and the subscribers. The former will find it conducive to the systematic arrangement of their time; and the latter, expecting the grateful call, will be ready; or will leave the money with a neighbour, if likely to be absent.

7. Although it is earnestly hoped that few cases will occur to induce a Collector to resign her district, while health and ability qualify her to discharge the interesting duties of her office, yet unavoidable circumstances may render it necessary. In every such instance, she ought to feel it to be *her* duty, and not that of the Committee, to provide a successor properly qualified, and propose her admission before she tenders her own resignation. She should then consider the new member as her colleague, and accompany her for a few weeks through the district, in order to introduce her to the contributors and subscribers, and make her acquainted with the practical duties that devolve upon her.

8. When a new Visiting or Collecting Book is required, the Collector applies to the Minute Secretary, by whom she is immediately supplied. She then carefully copies the names, subscriptions, &c. of all her *free* contributors in the new Collecting Book; and also transcribes in it the names, &c. of all her *Bible* subscribers who have not been supplied, with the total sums they have respectively paid; the latter being inserted in the proper column. In fulfilling this duty, it should always be recollected, that the

contributor or subscriber bears the original number prefixed to the name. The old books should be handed to the Minute Secretary.

Visitors.

(*See Observation* I. *on the By-Laws, Chapter* VII. *Section* III.)

1. The importance of engaging young Ladies as Visitors, and of proposing them to the Committee as such, should never be lost sight of by Collectors, who are thus training up their future successors in this line of usefulness.

2. No young Lady should be proposed as a Visitor without the cordial approbation of her parents.

3. Visitors should collect *only* in their own families, and from their immediate friends and schoolfellows.

Servants.

(*See Appendix, No.* X.)

1. No application whatever should be made to a servant *without the express permission of her mistress*. This is a subject wherein too much caution and delicacy cannot be exercised by a Collector.

2. At their first visit to a respectable house, after having heard the sentiments of the heads of the family relative to the Bible Society generally, and to the Local Association in particular, the Collectors will be enabled to judge how far it may be proper to advert to the servants, and to request their mistress to circulate the "Address to Servants," and other papers, among her domestics. But the subject should never be *urged*, if the slightest disinclination be manifested. Important as it is (and few considerations are of greater importance) to elevate and confirm the tone of moral principle and feeling in this numerous class of the community, their employers should be the sole judges of the propriety of these applications.

3. Many servants have access to a Bible or Testament through the kind and judicious attention of their employers; but it is frequently found, that the individual possession of a copy increases its value, and secures its more diligent perusal.

4. It will, generally, be found more convenient to servants to pay their contributions and subscriptions monthly, or quarterly, rather than weekly.

Loans.

(*See No.* VII. *and Section* II. *of this Chapter.*)

1. The Collectors who recommend individuals for LOAN Bibles or Testaments are responsible to the Bible Secretary for their safe return.

2. It is a painful fact, that, in several instances, persons who possessed Bibles or Testaments have informed the Collectors they had

no copy, in the expectation of receiving them as a gift. This should make Ladies cautious in their proceedings. The idea of being gratuitously supplied should never be suggested: but in cases of absolute distress, the individuals should be informed that they will be recommended to the Committee for *Loans*.

3. Collectors are authorised by the Rules (*see Section* II. *of this Chapter*) to lend Bibles and Testaments, in cases of sickness, &c., in the intervals between the Committee-meetings; but all such cases should be regularly reported monthly.

4. When Collectors have recommended an individual for a loan in their "Monthly Report" (*see Specimen, No.* x.), and it has been voted by the Committee, a ticket is delivered at the table, which is subsequently signed by the Collectors, and given to the poor person. The party should be distinctly informed, that the Bible or Testament is lent for a month; and that the Committee expect it will be diligently read, and carefully preserved from injury.

5. It it highly desirable that Collectors, in their *weekly* visits, should call and see the Loan copies; but this duty becomes indispensable *monthly*. In numerous instances, the temporary possession of this inestimable treasure has induced the receivers to become subscribers for Bibles, and to relinquish those vicious and extravagant habits which had previously led them to believe they were unable to spare a penny weekly.

6. Collectors are authorised to extend the loans beyond a month, if they see occasion; but all such cases should be regularly reported to the Committee.

7. The names and address of those to whom copies have been lent should be inserted by the Collectors at the end of the "Collecting Book" (*see Fourth Specimen of No.* II.), as a guide to them in their weekly visits; and every copy returned should be immediately marked off in the list. If there be not sufficient space in the last folio of the Collecting Book, a piece of paper should be attached for this purpose.

Transfer Tickets.

(*See Specimen, No.* VI.)

1. As soon as possible after a *free* contributor has removed, the Collectors should ascertain his or her present residence, fill up the proper ticket, and put it in the collecting-bag, to present at the next Committee-meeting.

2. When they ascertain that a *Bible* subscriber is about to remove, they should immediately fill up *two* of the proper tickets. One should be given to the subscriber, with an intimation that it is to be delivered to the Ladies, who will call for it at the house to which the party is about to remove; the other should be put in the collecting-bag, and presented at the next Committee-meeting.

N.B. All tickets should be filled up with *ink*.

3. When a subscriber removes without informing the Collectors, they should inquire of the neighbours, and lose no time in giving or sending the ticket.

4. The preceding hints are only applicable when the party removes to another District of the same Association, or to a place within the limits of an Association connected with the same Auxiliary (or Branch) Society. If the removal be to a greater distance, the tickets are altogether dispensed with; and in the case of a *Bible Subscriber*, the party is requested to name some one who may continue the subscription, and receive the Bible or Testament. But if such be the wish of the subscriber, the amount received should be returned, and reported to the next Committee, when the Treasurer should be authorised to repay it to the Collectors.

Monthly Report.

(*See Specimen, No.* x.)

1. Collectors should always bear in mind, that on the regularity and correctness of this important document the accuracy of the Secretaries' Books wholly depends. Nor should it ever be forgotten, that if the Collecting Book be incorrectly kept, the Monthly Report will likewise be inaccurate. A very slight degree of attention will prevent any deficiency or error in either the one or the other.

2. Collectors will find it advantageous to fill up their Reports on the day preceding the Monthly Committee-meeting. The number of the district should be first inserted, with the date of presentation; next, the amount received since the last Report, specifying accurately the separate sums, under their proper heads of "Free Contributions," "Subscriptions for Bibles and Testaments," and "Total," and checking the several amounts by their "Collecting Book," and the money in the bag. The names of all persons who have become *new* free contributors, or Bible subscribers, *since the date of the last Report*, should then be inserted correctly, under their respective heads, from the Collecting Book; which also supplies the information required under the remaining heads in the first page of the Report. When inserting the total number of free contributors and Bible subscribers, care should be taken to deduct the number of those, of each description, who have discontinued.

3. It should always be remembered, that in *two* cases *only* should the name of a contributor or subscriber be reported *more than once*, under each separate head: first, when the party had been reported as having discontinued, but subsequently *renewed* the subscription; and secondly, when a Bible subscriber requires another copy. In the latter case, the party should be reported as a *new* subscriber for every copy required.

4. The name of every individual who discontinues should be

reported, from the "Discontinuation List" at the end of the "Collecting Book;" and, if possible, the reason that influences the individual. By this information many false reports and groundless insinuations have been promptly corrected.

5. In filling up the second page of their Report, the Collectors will have to depend on the correctness of their memory, if they have not previously taken notes of any interesting occurrence. The observations already made, in reference to No. x., preclude the necessity of further remark on this important subject.

N. B. The Report should always be written with *ink*.

6. It will save time and trouble at the Committee-meeting, if the Collectors exchange their pence for silver, and the latter for bank notes, when the amount admits of it.

In reference to the Committee-Meeting.

1. Collectors should frequently recur to the list of the Committee-days, in the first page of their "Collecting Book," and always endeavour to be *punctual* in their attendance at the hour appointed.

2. When illness, or any other unavoidable impediment, prevents the attendance of a Collector, she should always send the bag, containing the Report and money, timely, to her colleague, or to the Committee, and instruct the bearer to receive the duplicate bag. Inattention to this simple duty may occasion serious inconvenience to a Committee.

3. When the number of her district is called over in its turn, the Collector hands her bag to the Bible Secretary, and receives the duplicate bag, which she should immediately examine, to see whether it contain the form of the Monthly Report, and the requisite number of copies of the "Monthly Extracts."

4. Collectors are respectfully requested to give their undivided attention to the business before the chair. They will thus facilitate the proceedings of the Committee; and their own Reports will become doubly entitled to that respect which they shew to those of their colleagues.

5. Collectors should always endeavour to remain till the conclusion of the business.

In reference to a Public Distribution.

(*See Section* III. *of this Chapter.*)

1. When informed of the time fixed, the Collectors should *immediately* inform all their Bible subscribers, and specify the latest day (*which should never be altered*) for those to complete their subscriptions who may wish to receive their copies at the distribution.

2. When the "Lists" are furnished by the Minute Secretary, the Collectors should fill them up carefully and correctly, and send them to the Bible Secretary, on or before the day appointed by her.

Without strict attention to this duty it will be impossible to conduct the business with order and propriety. No addition whatever should be subsequently made to the lists; or confusion will ensue, and the charge of partiality be incurred.

3. When the Collectors receive the subscribers' tickets, they should be immediately delivered to the respective individuals, with a charge to attend punctually at the appointed time and place, and to *shew* (but not deliver) their tickets at the doors, that they may be conducted to their proper place in the room. Those who cannot conveniently attend should be requested to send their tickets by some member of their respective families, or by one of their neighbours.

4. In their weekly visits immediately succeeding a public distribution, the Collectors should inquire of the subscribers whether the Bibles and Testaments give satisfaction.

GENERAL HINTS.

1. Collectors should always remember the responsibility that attaches to their characters. The poor know little or nothing of the Bible Society, but through the medium of the Collectors, who should consider themselves, individually, as the representatives of the Parent Institution within their respective districts; and it is by *their* conduct and manner the Society will be judged and appreciated by many.

2. Although these Hints are intended merely as *practical* suggestions, the author cannot refrain from recommending Collectors to cherish and cultivate a disposition of mind consonant with the great cause in which they are engaged. If undertaken in a right spirit, the pursuit will become a privilege and a pleasure; gratitude and respectful affection will gradually extend among the poor; opposition will be disarmed by the steady but unobtrusive progress of truth; and apathy will be warmed into co-operation, in beholding the wisdom and the prudence of Christian Females, animated by Christian zeal, but governed by Christian principles. Among those graces that should characterize the Collector of a Bible Association, no one is more valuable, nor more attractive, than "*the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of* GOD *of great price.*"

3. Peculiar caution and delicacy will be required, in meeting the objections of those whose views of the Bible Society are different from our own. Arguments repeatedly refuted, and misrepresentations frequently exposed, may be again adduced; but they should always be met with temper and forbearance; under the influence of that "*charity*" which "*suffereth long and is kind,*" which "*vaunteth not itself,*" "*doth not behave itself unseemly,*" "*is not easily provoked,*" "*hopeth all things, endureth all things,*" and "*never faileth.*" The best answer to opposition will be found in the

beneficial effects of the Bible Society; but many valuable hints and cautions may be acquired from those who think differently from us.

4. A similar degree of patience is frequently necessary when visiting the poor. Every allowance should be made for their ignorance, and occasional rudeness of manner; and the object in view, as well as the inestimable value of the sacred volume, should be explained with mildness and judgment.

5. In all suitable cases, the *frequent perusal* of the Bible, when found in a poor family, should be recommended with kindness and gentleness.

6. It will sometimes happen, that a subscriber prefers having a different sized Bible or Testament to that originally selected: all such cases should be met with cheerful acquiescence on the part of the Collectors.

7. If a Bible or Testament be damaged, or badly or incorrectly bound, it should be immediately exchanged by application to the Bible Secretary, and sent back by her to the Auxiliary (or Branch) Society, by the Secretaries of which it will be returned to the Depositary of the Parent Institution. Cases of this kind are comparatively unfrequent; but they should always receive prompt attention.

8. If a Lady collect in more than one district, the accounts and Reports should always be kept completely separate and distinct, or confusion will ensue.

9. Collectors should frequently revisit their districts; and, according to their own discretion, solicit the support of those who have hitherto declined.

10. Pawnbrokers should be requested not to receive Bibles or Testaments issued by the Society.

11. Papers, explanatory of the object of the Association, may be beneficially left for distribution at suitable places in a district; such as bakers' shops, chandlers', &c.

12. When a contributor or subscriber discontinues, the name should be immediately inserted in the list at the end of the Collecting Book, and reported at the next Committee-meeting.

13. As the Collectors of Bible Associations are frequently members of other benevolent institutions, it may not be unnecessary to remind them of the *singleness* of the object now under consideration. Several valuable individuals make it a point never to discharge the duties appertaining to other societies on the day appropriated to those of the Bible Association. The prudence of individual Collectors will suggest the proper line of conduct to pursue, in reference to this subject; and thus protect the Society from the groundless accusation of having concealed objects to promote.

14. It is perfectly consistent with the spirit and letter of the preceding observation, to remind Collectors of those numerous collateral benefits which never fail to attend a well-conducted Bible Association. The advantages of cleanliness, sobriety, and economy—the duty of loyalty, and subordination to their superiors

—the importance of having their children educated, and of learning to read themselves—and the blessings attending a state of independence, and freedom from pauperism, may be, and in numerous cases are suggested, without the slightest departure from the fundamental principle of the Bible Society. The establishment and success of savings banks, provident societies, schools for children and adults, village libraries, clothing societies, and other admirable institutions of a kindred nature, may be traced in many instances to the kind and judicious hints of the Collectors of Bible Associations.

15. Another collateral benefit arises from the recommendation of Collectors to the poor, to attend regularly their respective places of worship. It is scarcely necessary to say, that no particular place, or religious denomination, should be alluded to: and if any question on this subject be asked, the author would venture to suggest some such answer as the following: "The Bible Society is composed of members of the Church of England, Independents, Baptists, Moravians, Quakers, Methodists, &c. We have no wish as to the *place* you attend, nor can we recommend any one in preference to another; but it is your duty, and will be your interest, to go to *some* place regularly."

16. Much of the effect will depend on the *manner* in which these hints are given. *They should never be obtruded;* but as suitable opportunities offer, a prudent Collector will suggest them with affability, gentleness, and judgment. Encouragement, rather than complaint, will best produce the desired effect: but wisdom will neither attempt nor expect too much, nor be discouraged by the apparent failure of the effort to improve. Many of these hints, like the divine lessons of the Bible, may be long ere they pierce through the stubborn soil of ignorance and habit; yet they may ultimately reach the heart; and taking root there, spring forth into life and fruitfulness.

17. As connected with the three last observations, there is yet one suggestion which is offered with affectionate respect to all who are connected with the Bible Society. Standing as this great Institution does, on the broad and firm basis of Christianity, inviting the co-operation of all who believe and accept the Saviour, and influenced by that perfect liberality which excludes no human being from becoming a participant of its blessings, it is the imperative duty of its friends to manifest a kindred spirit. Whether by the public advocate of the cause, or the private Collector in a retired district, it is alike important that no allusion be made to any point of difference on religious subjects: even the conscientious *prejudices* of those who dissent from us should be respected; and our motto be,

> "Unity in things necessary:
> Liberty in things indifferent:
> Charity in all things."

VIII. This Section cannot be more appropriately closed than by the following address; for which, with the exception of a few verbal alterations, the author is indebted to a valued friend.

ADDRESS TO COLLECTORS.

It has been observed, that the "Collectors are the life-blood of every Society; and that the health of the system may be judged of by their regularity, as its pulse." If this be correct, great is the honour, and great also the responsibility, of your station. It is not a compliment earned by appearing once a year, with a look of interest, at a public meeting, or even once a month at a Committee-meeting: it is the reward of retired, monotonous, persevering exertion; of many a weary step, and patient word; receiving little excitement from the eye of man, and able to endure with meekness his ridicule and his censure. When the first novelty of the thing is over, your weekly rounds are little noticed. There is One only who continually seeth in secret, with the gracious design of rewarding openly: and to you—you who, in simplicity and sincerity, pursue your labours, with an eye to His approbation, with a desire to promote His cause in the world, and thereby to communicate to His creatures a happiness which you have yourselves experienced,—to you will He assuredly say, "Well done, good and faithful servants; inasmuch as ye did it unto one of these little ones, ye did it unto me."

But notwithstanding the favourable regard thus paid to the diligent and conscientious, let it be observed,—and allow the thought to "stir up your minds by way of remembrance,"—that it is to them only it can be given. It is readily acknowledged, that the temptations to remissness are great and many. Duties so constant, so laborious, and perhaps occasionally so ill received;—duties which require the sacrifice of so much valuable time, and, in many cases, such a rigid arrangement of business at home; the wearisome repetition of the same steps, the same persuasives, the same forbearance—which some may ridicule as superfluous, and a few resent as impertinent;—which must be done at seasons not of your own choosing, and in the face of various difficulties, sometimes from weather abroad, and sometimes from engagements at home,—duties such as these—such as yours—there is no small tendency in human-nature gradually to shrink from. The first generous impulse subsides into an almost sickening feeling of difficulty and disappointment. Some discouraging word, dropt by a half-hearted friend, or a secret enemy to the cause, sinks like lead into your bosoms, and checks the resolution which had already, perhaps, begun to fail. You feel ashamed, or weary, or indifferent, or hopeless; and, in the absence of any immediate stimulus, or apparent success, you almost wish to resign an office, the duties of which, in an hour of excited feeling, you undertook to discharge with SYSTEM, PUNCTUALITY, and PERSEVERANCE.

But is it true that such a thought has occurred to you?—that your heart has already been chilled!—that your hands have already slackened!—and have you been able to persuade yourself that this second thought is *best*? Revert for a moment to the scene, in which it is probable the generous determination was first inspired; and ask, Whether the conviction of duty then impressed on your mind, was, in reality, greater or less than the occasion? Did not your heart burn within you, when, in some large and attentive assembly, the wants of a dying world were set before you? when you heard of thousands passing, even from Christian countries, into the region of the

shadow of death, without any adequate knowledge of the Saviour, or even a possibility of possessing His Word as their guide? when, "not the Indian, not the Negro," not men of other climes, but your own poor neighbours—the families of your servants and labourers—the burdened mothers whom you see in every cottage, oppressed with exertion, want, or sickness—the old people, whose infirmities you have seen and pitied ever since you were children; and by some of whom, perhaps, you were nursed,—when these were pointed out to you as perishing for lack of knowledge—and when the thought was deeply impressed on your spirit, that, in some degree, their blood would be required at *your* hands—was it a heated imagination merely, or not rather an enlightened and sensible conscience, which induced you to say, notwithstanding every discouragement, *Here am I; send me?*—Was it to man, or to God, that you uttered the vow of perseverance, and made the willing sacrifice of a portion of your time, your convenience, and your feelings?—It was not to man. The eloquent speaker did not see your heart, and will never, it may be, hear of the ardour with which it prompted your first efforts in this work of Christian benevolence; nor will he know, it is probable, the decline it has since experienced: but there was One to whom the glow of your spirit *was* known; and, while the figures of a graceful oratory, the smiles of superficial interest, or the thunders of a momentary excitation, were utterly disregarded, the resolve passing in your bosom reached Him in the highest heaven, and was met by His gracious approbation.—Suffer not your conduct to retract the rational, the pious determination, then formed.

But was it from no such conviction of its duty and usefulness that you engaged in the business? Perhaps you were solicited by some friend, whom you could not well deny; or you thought it would be less arduous, and more agreeable, than, on trial, you find it:—or you joined the many, at a time when collecting was in fashion; and now you feel the weight, without a supporting sense of the utility of the task. But though you might begin without consideration, is it inevitable that you go on so, or that for want of it you turn back? Pause for a moment, you who have thus unthinkingly put your hand to the plough!—"*The field is the world;*" and see how large a part is yet uncultivated!—Shall it still lie waste, barren, and desolate,—even around your own dwellings?—and that not for want of seed, but only of sowers?—Though you are *but one*, your services are needed, and will assuredly be useful.

If, one after another, the Collectors should decline, or if few should be induced to come forward to fill up such vacancies as must naturally occur, what would become of the Society? Ministers might preach, and public Meetings declaim, and Committees deliberate; but if the Collectors fail—if you, the strength, the vital principle of the Society, lose your vigour—if this pulse does not beat warmly, strongly, regularly—all shall be in vain. *Your* exertions present a visible answer to all the prayers of all Christians for the progress of the Gospel. Your weekly walks, slender as they may seem among the resources of Infinite Power, and inefficacious as they may appear to the eye of human wisdom, may be made the means of directing the children of sorrow to the only source of consolation,—the desponding, to the only hope,—and ruined sinners, to the only name given under heaven, whereby they may be saved.

To those who go forth in their own sufficiency, and whose object is human praise, it is probable that human praise may be allowed, as the empty reward of external services: but to the sincere and single-hearted—to those who desire nothing more than thus to do good in secret—shall be given the delight of present success, and the honour of an open, as well as an eternal reward.

Origin and Advantages of the Loan Fund.

Go on, then, forgetting privation, surmounting difficulty, resisting every inducement to decline, secure of the approbation of a dying pillow, and the gracious approval of the God you serve. Submit your *motives* to the Searcher of hearts; and rely continually on Him, for strength to keep you from indecision and remissness; above all, to preserve you from the condemnation of those to whom He shall say, "I know not whence ye are;" though they may plead, "Thou hast taught in our streets:—Lord, Lord, open to us!"

SECTION II.

LOAN FUND.

1. A decided conviction of the *general* inexpediency of gratuitous grants of the holy scriptures by Bible Associations, and frequent experience of the improper disposal, by the receivers, of copies thus voted, induced the suggestion of a plan by which this mode of distribution is rendered altogether unnecessary, with reference to the resident inhabitants of places where Associations are established.

The LOAN FUND is composed of a small subscription, contributed by the members of the Committee and their friends for this express purpose. The amount is appropriated to the purchase of Bibles and Testaments (principally the latter) from the Auxiliary Society, at the reduced or subscribers' prices of the Parent Society; which are placed under the care of the Bible Secretary of the Association, and kept distinct from her general stock. They are marked and numbered conspicuously on the title-page and on the edges of the leaves, which precludes their being sold or pawned, and distinguishes them from the copies issued by the Society to subscribers. Every Collector is at liberty to recommend, at the foot of her Monthly Report, any of the inhabitants of her district for loans; but is responsible for the safe return of the copies to the Bible Secretary.

The advantages of this simple and efficacious plan, in cases of extreme poverty, sickness, or confinement, are evident: every individual, however impoverished or afflicted, may be immediately supplied with a Bible or Testament, in a manner the best calculated to secure its perusal and preservation; while the certain loss to the society, and the other disadvantages of the former system, are altogether avoided.

It is a gratifying evidence of the beneficial effects of the Loan Fund, that although the plan has been adopted by more than one hundred Ladies' Associations, the author has never heard that a single copy has been either lost or injured by the grateful recipients, many of whom have expressed the

greatest pleasure at being thus enabled to peruse the Oracles of Truth, before they completed, and in some instances before they even commenced, their subscriptions.

However unimportant, in a comparative point of view, this subject may appear, the author has had ample cause to testify that it involves considerations of no slight moment. Those who have been engaged in the practical duties of Bible Associations, must have frequently felt, or witnessed, the difficulties that attend the necessary discussion of claims of gratuitous grants; and the delicacy required, in order to avoid the appearance of partiality on the one hand, and of a something approaching to invidiousness on the other. By the establishment of a Loan Fund, these and many other difficulties are altogether averted, while every desirable object is attained:—the temporary possession of a Bible or Testament, and the intimation that it must be returned within a certain time, not only ensure its perusal, but in many instances have induced the borrowers to become willing subscribers, in order to make this new and sacred companion the *permanent* inmate of their homes.

2. The following Regulations are recommended for adoption:—

RULES FOR THE LOAN FUND.

I. That a stock of not less than six Bibles and twelve Testaments be provided, for lending to the sick poor, or to those whose circumstances may prevent their subscribing the whole, or a part, of the sum necessary for the purchase of a Bible or Testament.

II. That the requisite fund be raised by a private subscription, distinct from the regular funds of the Association; and that the amount be paid over to the Bible Secretary, who shall expend the same in the purchase of Bibles and Testaments, at the *reduced* prices, from the Auxiliary (or Branch) Society.

III. That the Bible Secretary mark every Bible and Testament, on the margin of the leaves, with the word "LENT," and its appropriate No., in legible characters; and inscribe or stamp on the title-page the name of this Association: and that no copy be lent without being thus marked.

IV. That the Bible Secretary keep a regular account of the fund, and its appropriation, and of all Bibles and Testaments lent and returned, in a book to be kept for this purpose exclusively: and that she include in her Monthly Report to the Committee, a statement of the total number of persons supplied, and the particulars of all outstanding loans.

V. That every Collector shall be at liberty to recommend any persons residing in her district, whom she may consider suitable objects to be supplied with loans. Such recommendation, with

Observations on the Rules.

the names and address of the parties, to be inserted, under the proper head, in the Monthly Report to the Committee.

VI. When a loan Bible or Testament is voted by the Committee, a ticket shall be immediately filled, and handed to the Collectors of the district, by whom it shall be signed, and delivered to the person recommended.

VII. In the intervals between the Committee-meetings, the Collectors are authorised to apply, by note, to the Bible Secretary for loans for the supply of sick persons: the names and address of such persons to be specified in the note. But the particulars of every case supplied in this manner shall be included in the next Monthly Report of the Collectors, as prescribed by the *fourth* Rule.

VIII. The Bibles and Testaments shall be lent for one month: but the Collectors are authorised to extend this period at their discretion, reporting to the Committee every instance of such extension.

IX. The Collectors shall keep a regular account, at the end of the Collecting Book, of all Bibles and Testaments lent in their district; and shall include in their Monthly Reports to the Committee, a specification of all outstanding loans, and any information of an interesting nature connected with the subject.

X. Whenever a Bible or Testament is returned to the Bible Secretary, she shall write the word "DISCHARGED" across the loan ticket, and return it to the Collectors by whom it was originally signed, to be preserved by them as an official acknowledgment.

XI. That no individual residing within the limits of the Association shall be recommended to the Committee of the Auxiliary (or Branch) Society, as a suitable object of gratuitous supply, until the result of a loan be first ascertained.

XII. In all cases, the Collectors, respectively, shall be responsible for the safe return of Bibles and Testaments lent on their recommendation.

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3. OBSERVATIONS ON THE RULES.

1. The stock specified in the *first* Rule will generally be found sufficient for an Association of moderate size; but if the subscription be adequate, it may be beneficially extended. In many Associations, the stock consists exclusively of Testaments: but the following extract from the Second Annual Report of the *Plymouth* Ladies' Society affords a gratifying evidence of the advantages attending the mode now recommended:—

"Your Committee have to acknowledge, on the part of the Associations of Northern Dock, Southern Dock, and Stoke, the receipt of *twelve pounds*, from the *Gentlemen's* Associations, being the balance remaining in hand at the close of their labours in those places. By *two* of these Associations their share of this sum has been appropriated to the purchase of a stock of

loan *Bibles*: and it is worthy of observation, that solely by these means the injurious practice of gratuitous grants has been rendered entirely unnecessary; *no* recommendations having been made by either of the Associations, where the simple expedient of a *Bible* loan-stock has been adopted.

"Your Committee take this opportunity of expressing their renewed conviction of the superiority of the plan of *lending* the Scriptures, when circumstances prevent the purchase: *two hundred and eighty* persons having, by means of the loan-stocks of the several Associations, enjoyed the benefits of this society, without being burdensome to its funds."

The best Testaments for the purposes of the Loan Fund are the *Brevier*, bound in linen-cloth.

II. A reference to the 20th and 21st Minutes of the Committee (*Specimen of No.* XI. *Section* V. *Chap.* VII.) will sufficiently explain the mode of proceeding, in carrying the *second* Rule into effect. The author has never known a single instance wherein the requisite fund has not been immediately and cheerfully contributed.

III. In addition to the distinguishing marks placed on loan Bibles and Testaments, as described in the *third* Rule, some Associations adopt the practice of pasting on the inside of the cover a printed paper, containing the following intimation:—

"This is a Loan from the ——— Bible Association. It is to be used with care; and on no account to be sold or pledged."

IV. The practical tendency of the *fourth* Rule will be found sufficiently illustrated in the Specimens, *Nos.* XX. *and* XXI. *Section* V. *of Chap.* VII.

V. It is not intended that the benefits of the fund should be confined exclusively to the sick, nor to those who appear unable to subscribe. In numerous instances, they have been extended, with manifest advantage, to aged subscribers of a penny or twopence a week, to whom time is peculiarly precious; and in others, they have induced individuals to become subscribers, who were previously indifferent to the Bible, and regardless of its sacred lessons. The Committee of the *Liverpool* Ladies' Society, in their Third Annual Report, observe:—"The loan of Testaments, under the direction of the Collectors, who are responsible for them, and who make periodical reports of their condition, has been found exceedingly useful, in quieting that impatience which many subscribers feel, until, on the completion of their subscriptions, they obtain their Bibles; and in exciting in many, who at first set little value on the Scriptures, a reverence for them, and a desire to possess copies for themselves . . . . . The number of Loan Testaments in circulation is upwards of 500: the use of these has induced many to become subscribers, whose names would not otherwise have been obtained for that purpose. Among them are to be found, especially in one Association, a considerable number of Roman Catholics."

VI. The *sixth* and *seventh* Rules have been fully explained and illustrated, in treating of the "Loan Ticket" (*See No.* VII.

Section V. *Chapter* VII.); and the intention of the *eighth* Rule will be rendered perfectly clear, by referring to the duplicate Second Specimen of the "Collectors' Monthly Report."—*See No.* x. *of the same Section.*

VII. The Fourth Specimen of the "Collecting Book" (*No.* II. *Section* V. *Chap.* VII.) will explain the method of keeping the account referred to in the *ninth* Rule; and the following extracts will illustrate the design of the latter part of this regulation:—

Leeds Ladies', 1819.—"The Collectors of District No. 6 have been much pleased with the effect of a loan Testament. They report—Having called upon a family in the beginning of March last, and finding them quite destitute of the Scriptures, the poor woman expressed a wish to have a Bible, and subscribed sixpence, saying, she would continue that weekly. The second time she was called upon, she said she could not continue her subscription, as she had spoken to her husband on the subject, who told her, a Bible would be of no use to them, and that he would not have one. The Collectors endeavoured to convince the woman that it might be of great use to them; and desired she would speak with her husband, and they would call again in a week or two. In the mean time, they learnt from a neighbour that this man was a drunken, wicked character; never entered a place of worship; and, when in full employment himself, was maintained by his wife. The Ladies called again; when the woman said, she had at last prevailed on her husband to let them have a Bible. A loan Testament was left with them, and they were promised the use of it till they received their Bible. The woman continued to pay her subscription punctually; and, when presented with the Bible, gave a gratifying account of the change in her husband. She said, that ever since he had been in possession of the loan Testament, he had constantly, and at every opportunity, read it with the greatest apparent concern;—that he had become a regular attendant at a place of worship; and frequently manifested much sorrow at the recollection of his past conduct. He now brings home his weekly earnings every Saturday night; and has never been heard to use any profane language since he became a reader of the Testament. When his wife subsequently presented him with the Bible, he seemed quite overpowered, and wept much."

Plymouth Ladies', 1819.—"Your Committee cannot here refrain from expressing their unqualified approbation of this part of the system, which has proved a source of joy and consolation, to many of the *sick* poor in particular; nor from stating, that in no instance has a single copy been lost which has been issued from this source. From among the many instances which might be adduced in proof of the utility of these loans, and of the gratitude evinced by the poor, *one* only their limits allow them to extract:—

"The Collectors of a district having supplied a poor woman with a loan Testament, called, a few weeks afterwards, for the purpose of ascertaining whether she had made any use of it: she expressed herself under the most lasting obligations to them for the treasure they had lent her, and spoke of having derived the greatest comfort and consolation from its perusal, dwelling with peculiar earnestness on those parts of the Scriptures which relate more immediately to the love of the SAVIOUR for sinners.—The neighbours also stated, that though she was absent from home, at work, during the day, she never retired to rest without spending a considerable portion of time in reading her Testament;—that she was constantly speaking of its contents, and blessing those who were the means of providing her with it."

The Labouring Classes induced to subscribe by Loans.

VIII. It is evident, that unless some acknowledgment of the return of a Bible or Testament be given, as provided by the *tenth* Rule, there is a danger of incorrectness and misunderstanding; as it is generally sent by the borrower to the Bible Secretary, without the knowledge of the Collectors. In all such cases the ticket should be returned at the next meeting of the Committee, and the Collectors should immediately make the proper entry at the end of their Collecting Book. When a person who has been supplied removes into another district, it is usual for the Collectors of the latter to assume the responsibility attached by the *twelfth* Rule; and it will save much trouble if a general understanding, to this effect, prevail in every Committee.

IX. The following extract from the Second Annual Report of the *Manchester* Ladies' Society will illustrate the tendency of the *eleventh* rule.

"One hundred and seventy-three persons have been supplied with loans: and your Committee have every reason to believe that very extensive and important blessings have arisen from this part of their plan. The use made of loans enables the Collectors, in a great measure, to ascertain the characters of those to whom they are entrusted; and prevents the funds of the Society from being squandered on those who might eagerly *accept* a Bible, without any wish to peruse it. Many sick persons, who were entirely destitute of the Scriptures, have been thus supplied."

And it will gratify the reader to perceive, in the anecdote subjoined, a renewed evidence of an increasing disposition on the part of the labouring classes to assist in supplying themselves. The Committee of the *Liverpool* Ladies' Society, in their Report for 1819, observe,—

"One of the grants made at the recommendation of your Committee was to a shoemaker, in straitened circumstances, who had a wife and ten children to support. When the Collectors called upon him, he expressed so earnest a desire for a Bible, that they immediately applied for a grant, not thinking it right to require payment from so poor and industrious a man: but he declined receiving it otherwise than as a loan, expressing his determination to do all in his power to spare the money; and he has since succeeded in paying the full price."

X. It may reasonably admit of a doubt, whether the advantages of the Loan Fund be not questionable, without the responsibility attached to the Collectors by the *Twelfth* rule: nor can any Lady justly complain, when required to exercise that discretion in reference to the property of the Society which she manifests in the disposition of her own. This responsibility not only makes them more cautious in the selection of those whom they recommend, and more diligent in acquiring a knowledge of their character and circumstances, but induces greater punctuality in those visits of mercy from which such incalculable benefits have resulted. The loss of a few Testaments is a matter of little importance, when compared

The Plan of Public Distributions first adopted at Paisley.

with the principles of honesty and justice, and the habits of regularity, order, and attention, which it is the great object of a Bible Association to encourage and perpetuate: and whatever tends to counteract the temptation to fraud on the part of the poor—to strengthen those principles, and confirm these habits—must be a positive good. Experience has proved, beyond the possibility of doubt, that the weekly visits of the Collectors produce this effect:—in the case of subscribers, there is an evident motive to punctuality; but, without this regulation, there would not be a similar inducement to call on those who had been supplied with loans.

*** *See Hints to Collectors, Section* I. *of this Chapter.*

SECTION III.

PUBLIC DISTRIBUTIONS.

1. The reader who is conversant in the proceedings of Bible Societies on the European Continent, cannot be ignorant that this mode of distributing copies of the holy scriptures has long prevailed in many parts of Germany, &c.; although it has been an *occasional* act, and connected with devotional solemnities, rather than a systematic periodical measure, arising out of the regulations of the respective institutions. The first Bible Society in Great Britain by which this plan was adopted, appears to have been that of Paisley and East Renfrewshire. The Committee, in their Annual Report for 1814, observe, that "they were actuated by a desire at once to guard against an indiscriminate distribution, and to secure, so far as depended on them, a proper attention to the Bibles distributed." After due investigation, lists of the families requiring a supply, in the several districts of the town and neighbourhood, were made out by the Committee; and "each of the families was furnished with a ticket, having inscribed on it the name of the head of the family, the place of residence, and the extent of aid required. These tickets were distributed by gentlemen appointed for the purpose, who were careful to make accurate inquiry into the state of those who were represented as in necessitous circumstances, and to whom the distribution was made. With the tickets thus distributed and received, the people were appointed to repair, at a fixed time, to certain places appropriated for distribution of Bibles."

2. Whether the example was originally derived from Germany or Scotland, is of little moment; but it is certain, that whatever merit belongs to the more general introduction of

Public Distributions adopted at Godalming with considerable effect.

this measure into the system of Bible Associations, may be claimed by the Committee of the *Godalming* Society. It has been already stated (*see* VIIIth *Division of Sect.* I. *Chap.* VII.), that they were directed, by the First Annual Meeting of their Subscribers, to prepare and publish a detailed account of "the Southwark Bible Association System, adapted to the local circumstances of the Country:" this publication appeared in the autumn of 1815: and it is due to those by whom this mode of distribution was first recommended and explained, to extract the following exposition of the views by which they were influenced:—

"The method which your Committee has adopted, for the distribution of Bibles and Testaments, has been an important part of the proceedings of the past year. They were induced, by some considerations, which they think the results have fully justified, to prefer a public to a private distribution: accordingly, they instituted a quarterly meeting for this purpose. The effects of these meetings have been truly gratifying; in the interest which they have excited, particularly among the poor—the consequent increase of applications for Bibles and Testaments, and of donations and subscriptions. By these meetings, every appearance of *party* or *private* charity is avoided; the plan and operations of the society are better understood; and, while the prejudices of some are melted away, the attachment of others is confirmed."

As the Godalming Association was not only the first regularly-organized Ladies' Society, but the first which presented to the public a sketch of the system on which it was conducted, it might naturally be expected that the plan of PUBLIC DISTRIBUTIONS would be adopted in other places; though it by no means constitutes an essential part of the design. Such, in fact, was, with few exceptions, the case; and in the regulations prepared for similar institutions, provision was expressly made for this mode of delivering the copies to the subscribers. (*See* IVth *Observation on the By-Laws, Chap.* VII. *Section* III.) Experience and observation have suggested many improvements in the original plan, which will be found included in the following remarks.

3. It may not be altogether unnecessary to observe, that the proceedings of Bible distributions, like those of the Annual Meetings, are conducted *exclusively* by the members of the Auxiliary (or Branch) Committee, and such other Gentlemen as may be invited to take part in the business. The plan of *quarterly* distributions, as originally devised at Godalming, has been very generally superseded by *half-yearly* meetings for this purpose; and in some Associations of long standing, which have nearly satisfied the local demand, a public distribution connected with the Annual Meeting is found sufficient, and has been attended with considerable

advantage. Whatever be the period agreed on, it will conduce to the order and regularity of the proceedings if the days be positively fixed by a By-Law; so that the Collectors and subscribers may be previously acquainted with the time appointed, and make their arrangements accordingly.

4. The following, or similar Resolutions, should be adopted by the Committee of a Bible Association, at least six weeks previous to the time appointed for a public distribution:—

I. That the next public distribution of Bibles and Testaments be held at *the Boys' Free School*, on the evening of *Monday*, the 15th of *October*; and that *A. B.* Esq. be invited to preside on the occasion.

II. That a copy of the preceding resolution be transmitted to the Committee of the —— Auxiliary (or Branch) Society; with a request, that they will appoint a deputation, to engage and fit up the place of meeting, and conduct the business of the evening.

III. That the following Gentlemen be respectfully invited to take part in the proceedings of the public distribution; viz.

(*Here follow the Names.*)

IV. That the Collectors be requested to inform all the subscribers for Bibles and Testaments, in their respective districts, of the day appointed for the public distribution; and that no subscriber can be then supplied who shall not have completed his or her subscription on or before *Monday*, the *24th of September*.

V. That the Collectors return their lists, properly filled (*see Specimen subjoined*), to the Bible Secretary, at the Committee-meeting, on the *1st of October*.

VI. That the Minute Secretary be requested to order a sufficient number of hand-bills, announcing the public distribution; and to have them laid on the table, at the next meeting of the Committee, with a supply of "Free Contributors' Tickets."—*See Specimen subjoined.*

5. At the next meeting of the Committee, the Collectors' lists are delivered in; and the Bible Secretary fills up, and gives to each Collector, the proper number of public distribution tickets (*see Specimen subjoined*); which they subsequently sign, and deliver to the respective subscribers for whom they are intended. The Bible Secretary also makes out a list of all the subscribers to be supplied at the public distribution, with a specification of the kind of Bible or Testament which they are severally to receive; which list is placed before the chairman.

At the same meeting, the hand-bills are given to the Collectors, with a request that they will circulate them in their respective districts; and they also receive a ticket for every free contributor then on their books, which they subsequently deliver to the parties.

*** The other duties which devolve on the Secretaries and Collectors, in reference to the public distribution, have been already explained in Section I. of this Chapter.

6. SPECIMEN OF THE COLLECTORS' LISTS.

*** *The entries in Italics, in this and the following Specimens, are to be considered as Manuscript.*

Charles'

LADIES' BIBLE ASSOCIATION.

The Collectors for the District No. 1 recommend the following persons to the Committee, to be supplied with Bibles and Testaments at the next distribution; viz.

No.	NAMES.	Sort of Bible.	Sort of Test.	Amount paid.
1	*Mark Snelling*	*S.P.*		11 . 6
2	*Susan Dunster*		*P.C.*	4 . 0
3	*Jane Lucome*	*M.P.*		5 . 10
4	*Mary Natten*	*M.*		6 . 2
5	*Mr. Pengillis*		*P.C.*	4 . 4
6	*Mrs. Reddar*		*B.S.*	1 . 7
7	*Mrs. Vincent*		*B.S.*	1 . 7
8	*Mrs. Brooks*		*M.P.C.*	2 . 1
9	*Catherine Brooks*	*S.P.*		7 . 6
10	*M. A. Snello*		*M.P.C.*	2 . 1
11	*James Woods*		*P.C.*	4 . 4
12	*Mary Knighton*	*N:*		3 . 0
13	*Elizabeth Church*	*L.P.*		10 . 0
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

1*st October*, 1819. *C. A.* } Collectors.
D. B. }

8. PUBLIC-DISTRIBUTION TICKET.

These Tickets are of the same size as the Specimen, and are stitched in books, containing about fifty each. The Bible Secretary inserts the No., which is placed against the subscriber's name in the Bible Book (*see No.* XVIII. *First Specimen, Chap.* VII. *Section* V.), by which any necessary reference is materially facilitated. When the Tickets are cut out, and delivered to the Collectors, the checks should be carefully preserved.

Specimens of the PUBLIC-DISTRIBUTION and FREE-CONTRIBUTORS' TICKETS.

SPECIMEN.

No. 4. DISTRICT No. 1.

Mark Snelling,

a *Small-Pica* BIBLE.

Sum paid, 11*s.* 6*d.*

15*th* of *October*, 1819.

C. A. }
D. B. } Collectors.

Charles' LADIES' BIBLE ASSOCIATION.

No. 4. DISTRICT No. 1.

PERMIT *Mark Snelling* to receive a *Small-Pica* BIBLE, at the PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION, on *Monday*, the 15*th* of *October*, 1819.

Sum paid, 11*s.* 6*d.*

Mary Williams, BIBLE SECRETARY.

C. A. }
D. B. } COLLECTORS.

☞ SUBSCRIBERS TO ATTEND AT *The Boys' Free School, at* 6 O'CLOCK PRECISELY.

8. FREE-CONTRIBUTORS' TICKET.

This is of the same size as the specimen, and is printed on stout paper. One is given by the Collectors to every free contributor of a penny a-week and upwards, and confers a privilege which is highly and gratefully appreciated. As the hand-bills and placards give sufficient publicity to the *time* of meeting, it is omitted in this ticket; and a considerable saving of expense is thus effected, as one impression answers for several years.

SPECIMEN.

Plymouth

LADIES' BIBLE ASSOCIATIONS.

PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION:

At the Free School, Old Town without.

ADMIT A FREE CONTRIBUTOR TO A SEAT.

9. At a meeting convened for a public distribution, the chair should be taken *precisely* at the hour appointed, by the President, or some other officer of the Auxiliary (or Branch) Society. The Bibles and Testaments are placed on a table before him; each description being separated, to prevent mistakes. The subscribers who are entitled to receive copies present their tickets at the doors, but retain them in their

own hands: they are then conducted to seats appropriated *exclusively* to them, either in front of the chair, or around the room, so as to admit of an uninterrupted approach to the table when they are called on to receive their copies. On a due attention to this part of the business much of the interest of these meetings depends. The free contributors *deliver* their tickets at the doors, and are conducted to their appointed seats; and the platform is occupied by those Gentlemen only who conduct the business.

The Secretaries of the Auxiliary (or Branch) Society should always prepare an order of proceeding, and place a copy of it before the Chairman. The following is recommended for this purpose:—

ORDER OF PROCEEDING AT A PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION.

1. *The Chairman*.....	opens the business of the meeting; explains the object and design of the British and Foreign Bible Society, and of Bible Associations as connected with it; and details the recent proceedings of the Institution both abroad and at home.*
2. *A. B.*	moves the Resolution No. 1— "That this meeting feels desirous of expressing its increasing attachment to the pure and single principle of the Bible Society; and its gratitude to Divine Providence, for the blessings which it has been the instrument of conferring on the nations of the earth."
3. *C. D.*	seconds the Resolution No. 1.
4. *E. F.*	The Chairman having put the question, moves the Resolution No. 2— "That this meeting entertains an earnest hope that the welfare and happiness of the labouring classes will be essentially promoted by the operations of the Bible Association established in this district."
5. *G. H.*	seconds the Resolution No. 2.
	The Chairman, having put the question, requests the subscribers who have received tickets to approach the table, in regular order, and to hand their tickets, successively, to one of the Secretaries of the Auxiliary Society, who announces the description of the Bible or Testament specified in the ticket:—the proper copy is handed by another Gentleman to the Chairman, by whom it is delivered to the subscriber, who immediately returns to his or her former seat. When the distribution has been completed,

* If any officer or member of the Parent Society be present, the Chairman generally refers to him for this statement of the operations and results of the Institution.

Public Distributions are not an essential part of the System.

6. *I. K.*	moves the Resolution No. 3— "That this meeting acknowledges, with grateful respect, the obliging manner in which the Chairman has conducted the business."
7. *L. M.*	seconds the Resolution No. 3, and puts the question.
8. *The Chairman*	acknowledges the Resolution, refers to the plates for receiving contributions, and dissolves the meeting.

10. It has already been observed, that the plan of "Public Distribution" does not constitute an essential or necessary part of the system of Bible Associations; nor is it expedient to introduce it where the mode of delivery described in Chap. VII. (*Section* V. *No.* VIII.) has been adopted. How far it may be applicable to country Associations, generally, is a subject on which the author does not presume to decide: but, while he acknowledges that he partakes of those fears which have been suggested by some judicious friends, he would respectfully submit, that the question is not whether this mode of distribution be altogether unexceptionable, but whether the benefits do not overbalance the disadvantages. On the one hand, it has been contended, that those meetings are inconsistent with the simplicity of the Society;—that they confer on it the character of ostentation or display;—and that the tendency of Bible Associations to elevate the moral character of the poor, is counteracted by a proceeding which confirms the habits of pauperism. On the other, the results of experience and observation have been adduced; and, as it is by these that the Committees of Local Associations will judge and decide, the following testimonies are extracted from the Reports of those societies which are best qualified to pronounce an opinion on the subject:—

Godalming, 1815.—"It is impossible to give an adequate description of these meetings: the sight of the Bibles before distribution is peculiarly interesting; and when they are transferred to the hands of the grateful poor, the sight, *thus* varied, becomes truly affecting. To these meetings the poor come from several miles distant.

Henley, 1816.—"We have been quite happy in witnessing the delight which the poor felt at our last public distribution of Bibles. Those who received Bibles spoke of it with gratitude; and others, who were spectators, with much interest; and, in consequence of it, voluntarily offered a *free* subscription."

Abingdon, 1818.—"Your Committee would record their conviction of the utility of *public distributions*. Within the last year, *three* of these interesting exhibitions have taken place; at which 622 Bibles and Testaments were put into the hands of the poor."

Daventry, 1818.—"It is impossible for your Committee to pass by in

silence the excellency of this manner of distributing the copies of the holy scriptures. It may be doubted, by many persons, whether such large numbers of books are disseminated as the society assert: here the doubt is dissipated by the fact. It may be questioned, whether the Bible is of the authorised version: here the books are open for inspection. It may be insinuated, that tracts accompany the pure word of GOD: here the treachery must be instantly detected."

Plymouth, &c. 1819.—"The advantages of public over private distributions of the Scriptures are great: a practical refutation is thus given to the calumnies of those, who assert that the Bibles never reach the poor, or that notes and comments accompany their delivery: interest is excited in all classes, and more especially among the poor; who, without these meetings, would have few, if any, opportunities of becoming acquainted with the extensive operations of the Parent Society: while the rich and the poor, brought thus into contact, in circumstances peculiarly calculated to awaken benevolent and moral feeling, find, that, in co-operating to promote the glory of GOD and the happiness of mankind, they insensibly imbibe a spirit of mutual kindness, with which envy and discontent, pride and selfishness, are equally incompatible. Your Collectors have repeatedly witnessed such effects with delight: and so great has been the interest excited by the distributions, that purchasers of Bibles and Testaments, supplied by this means, have frequently become free contributors, for the avowed purpose of enjoying the privilege of attending them: even, in some cases, where circumstances prevented a stated subscription, a small donation has been given, as it were, to purchase the pleasure. But at no period are public distributions so advantageous as in the early stages of a society, when the first object is to ensure confidence in the minds of the subscribers: and by no other means can this be so effectually attained."

It is certainly difficult, especially in the country, and among a scattered population, to induce the labouring classes to attend an Annual Meeting; and thus the attainment of one principal object of a Bible Association—that of interesting the poor in the nature and design of the Institution—is at least rendered more uncertain. But they have a personal motive to attend a public distribution, and frequently make considerable sacrifices for this gratification.

In conclusion:—the strongest argument that can be urged in favour of the plan, is, that it affords a practical refutation of the assertion, that "notes and comments" are distributed with the Bibles issued by the Society. The author is fully aware that an objection has been taken to those meetings, on the ground of *reported* injudicious addresses: but he can conscientiously aver, that in those which he has attended, the only "notes and comments" he has heard may be comprised in one sentence—"Read your Bibles; and shew, by your lives and conversation, that you are influenced by what you read."

APPENDIX.

No. I.

TWO LETTERS
ON THE
SUBJECT OF THE BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY,
By the Right Hon. NICHOLAS VANSITTART.

LETTER *to the Rev. Dr.* MARSH, *Margaret Professor of Divinity in the University of Cambridge; occasioned by his* ADDRESS *to the Senate of that University.*

DEAR SIR,—I beg to return my best acknowledgments for the communication of your Address to the Senate of Cambridge; which I the more strongly feel as a mark of your kind attention, as I have not the honour of belonging to that University, and as it is a considerable time since I have been so fortunate as to have had an opportunity of meeting you. You were perhaps not aware that you were sending your Address to a member of the British and Foreign Bible Society; but I accept, as a proof of kindness, your candid and friendly admonition, which affords me an opportunity of justifying myself to you, as a Church-of-England man, for contributing my assistance to that institution.

I never indeed before thought it necessary to offer any apology for so doing: for though I was aware, before I engaged in the society, that it had been represented as dangerous to the Church, it appeared to me that this charge had been so completely refuted, that it is with no less surprise than regret that I now learn that you still think it well founded.

I must first remark, that your observation respecting the funds of the Society for promoting Christian Knowledge, compared with those of the Bible Society, must give a very erroneous impression respecting the comparative wealth of the two societies. You state that the funds of the latter are much superior to those of the former. This is so far from being the case, that, by the latest annual account, the Society for promoting Christian Knowledge appears to be possessed of property in the public funds producing about 5300*l.* per annum, besides some landed property; while the Bible Society was, in April last, possessed of no more than 389*l.* per annum in the funds, and of money and exchequer-bills capable of producing about 180*l.* more; making together about 570*l.* per annum: and although its total receipts within the year exceeded those of the Society for promoting Christian Knowledge, in the proportion of about 24,600*l.* to about 19,000*l.* yet these receipts were not only principally derived from casual and occasional sources, such as congregational collections, and contributions from Auxiliary Societies, but they actually fell short of the expenditure of the year by upwards of 3600*l.* It is not therefore without necessity, much less is it from an invidious spirit of rivalry towards any other institution, that the friends of the Bible Society are making those exertions to obtain further patronage and support from the public, which appear to excite your alarm—an alarm for which I confess myself totally unable to account,

when I consider that the sole and exclusive object of the Bible Society, so far as it respects the United Kingdom, is the circulation of the authorised translation of the Scriptures, without note or comment. I should, as a member of the Church, be very sorry to think that the devout study of the Scriptures could lead to the disregard of our Liturgy: on the contrary, I should hope that it would produce a more general acknowledgment of its excellence; as it originally, at the period of the Reformation, led, through the blessing of Divine Providence, to its establishment. The Bible, says Chillingworth, and the Bible only, is the religion of the Protestant; it is the sole basis of the Church of England, and the only one on which you, I am sure, would wish to place it. But you observe, that you can have no guarantee, that, as the power of the Bible Society increases, other objects, inimical to the Church, will not in time be associated with the main object. To this I answer, that so long as the members of the Church take part in the Bible Society, its very constitution will afford such a guarantee as you desire. The President, and all the Vice-Presidents without exception, are Churchmen, and are constant members of the managing committee, in which they always preside; and of the other members of this committee, the Churchmen are equal in number to all the Dissenters of different sects: so that, in every question, the Church must have a constant majority; and in the general meetings, in which alone all points affecting the constitution of the society must be decided, the members of the Church must have a weight in proportion to their numbers and consequence. In proportion, therefore, as Churchmen of talents, rank, and influence, join the society, this preponderance must increase. Among the patrons, either of the Parent Society or its branches, are already numbered the four Archbishops of Ireland, and eight English and eight Irish Bishops. I doubt whether the Society for promoting Christian Knowledge, which now, as you observe, enjoys the countenance of the whole Episcopal Bench, was, at so short a period from its formation, honoured with the support of so large a body of the Prelates; and I should hope the time might not be far distant, when the two societies may equally flourish under the general patronage of them all. This would appear to me the most effectual remedy for any supposed danger from the Dissenting influence in the Bible Society. To those who are intimately acquainted with the society, this danger must indeed appear chimerical. So little does the spirit of mutual jealousy exist, that there has been no instance of a division taking place in a general meeting; and I scarcely recollect one even in the committee, in the course of a frequent attendance: but what may appear to you more extraordinary, I have not yet been able to discover which of the members of the committee are Churchmen and which are Dissenters, except in the instances of those gentlemen with whom I happen to be personally acquainted, and a few members of the Society of Friends, who are of course distinguished by their dress.

But supposing, for the sake of the argument, that there may be real danger from the preponderance of the Dissenting interest, What is the remedy you propose?—that all Churchmen should withdraw themselves from the society, and leave it wholly in the hands of the Dissenters. If any thing can make the society dangerous, this must do it; because there would then be no check to any sectarian spirit which might introduce itself, and which must be unavoidably irritated by so harsh, and, I think, so unjust an indication of jealousy. But even if no sentiment of resentment should be excited, one of two consequences must inevitably follow: either the society, being deprived of the hope of further support, and crippled by the loss of its pecuniary means, and of many of its most valuable members, would wholly expire, or sink into insignificance; or else the Dissenting interest, making up for these losses by more extensive sacrifices, and an increase of

zeal and activity, and availing itself of the assistance of the foreign societies already formed, would carry on the institution in nearly the same manner as before.

In the first case, you would have crushed an establishment which has done more for the diffusion of Christianity than has been effected in the same space of time in any age since the Apostolic: which has in seven years been the means of preaching the Gospel in fifty-four languages. This would indeed be putting out one of the eyes of Britain.

The other alternative would be, to transfer to the body of Dissenters all the honour and influence of whatever has been done, and whatever may be done, by an institution, of which the dawn has been so glorious, but which is visibly rising into brighter day. Shall it be said that the Dissenters alone have carried the Word of God to every nation under heaven? or shall the Church of England continue to claim the leading part in this important work? And can the Church of England stand so secure upon a narrow and exclusive policy, as by deserving the blessings, and uniting the prayers, of all people, nations, and languages?

The evils of either alternative seem to me equally fatal and inevitable. I am far from undervaluing the efforts of the Society for promoting Christian Knowledge: I am an old member of that society, and am heartily disposed to lend any assistance in my power to its useful plans. But how little, either that, or any other society now existing, would be competent to supply the place of the Bible Society, the experience of above a century has shewn. Even supposing (what I think impossible) that it might be made, in some considerable degree, to answer the same purposes, I see superior advantages in the present constitution of the Bible Society. The co-operation of Churchmen and Dissenters in religious matters, so far as they can conscientiously co-operate, seems to me one of the most efficacious means of lessening both the political and religious evils of dissent. It dispels prejudices, promotes candour and good-will, and must prepare the mind for the reception of that truth, which every one perceives to be no less the object of those who differ from him than his own. From such a communication, the Church of England has nothing to fear, and every thing to hope; as holding (in our judgments at least) that middle line of truth in which all opposite opinions have a natural tendency to coincide. And is that truth more likely to be acknowledged and embraced by minds embittered by mutual jealousy and aversion, or by such as have been previously softened by conciliation?

The existence of dissent will perhaps be inseparable from religious freedom, so long as the mind of man is liable to error; but it is not unreasonable to hope, that hostility may cease where perfect agreement cannot be established. If we cannot reconcile all opinions, let us endeavour to unite all hearts.

I ought, perhaps, to apologise for troubling you with arguments which must probably have been already brought before you, as I know your opinions are not taken up hastily and lightly. But I have thought it necessary to state such as have chiefly induced me to consider my taking a part in the concerns of the Bible Society, not only as consistent with, but as a proof of the sincerity and warmth of my attachment to the Church of England; and which still, on reflection, seem to me to have so much weight, that, far from repenting of what I have done, I feel convinced I shall least of all repent of it as I approach that state in which the distinction of Churchman and Dissenter shall be no more.

I am, &c. N. VANSITTART.

Great George Street, 4th Dec. 1811.

LETTER *to* JOHN COKER, *Esq. in answer to his Letter to the Right Hon.* N. VANSITTART; *published in the Oxford Paper.*

DEAR SIR,—I have at all periods of my life had a particular objection to newspaper controversies; but to a controversy so amicable as that to which I am invited by your Letter—which not only breathes the spirit of a gentleman, but the kindness of a friend—I cannot object, whatever may be its form. I consider your Letter as a public appeal to the University of Oxford, against the sentiments expressed in my Letter to Dr. Marsh. That Letter was, in the first instance, a mere private answer to his communication to me of his Address to the Senate of Cambridge. I expressed myself as a Churchman writing to a Churchman. I published my sentiments under the sanction of the highest authority in that University; and I have had the satisfaction of learning that many of the most distinguished members of both Universities approve of them. But I value both the judgment of our University, and your private opinion, too highly not to offer some further explanation.

The question between us is not, whether the Dissenters are, or are not, hostile to the Established Church, but whether they can acquire any power of injuring it from the operations of the Bible Society. What are those operations?—simply, the distribution of the authorised version of the Scriptures. How can such a distribution be injurious to the Church by which that version was made, and which professes to rest upon it as the sole foundation of its doctrines—that version from which the Church has taken the language of her Liturgy, and which has been sanctioned from age to age by the authority of all our ecclesiastical rulers? But if we pertinaciously reject the assistance of the Dissenters in circulating our Bible, what should hinder every sect from having, not only a Bible Society, but a Bible of its own? The Unitarians have already their improved version of the New Testament. And who can estimate the extent of mischief which might arise from such a collision of contending translations? To the unlearned, the version to which they are accustomed, stands in the place of an original; and to injure their opinion of its authenticity, is to shake their confidence in the Word of GOD itself.

We are apt to consider the Dissenters as narrow-minded and unreasonable: but while we condemn the prejudices of other men, let us be on our guard against our own. Let us for a moment suppose that the Bible Society, instead of being formed in London, had originated in the northern metropolis of our United Kingdom, under the patronage of the Church of Scotland; and that when their Episcopal brethren had petitioned to unite with them in the glorious work of diffusing the knowledge of their common Saviour, the Presbytery had replied, by a haughty refusal, 'Keep aloof! Your piety, your learning, may be equal to ours; your zeal may be exemplary, your morals irreproachable;—but you have no lay-elders, you have bishops and deans: nay more, you wear white surplices, and have organs in your churches: and we had rather the Scriptures should be for ever unknown, than disseminated by such polluted hands in conjunction with ours.' Such, my Dear Sir, is the conduct which you would recommend to the Church of England. How far it would conduce to its honour, or its substantial interests, I leave to your cool reflection. My ardent wish, as I know it is yours, is, that the Church of England may be the first of Christian churches, and our country the first of nations—not for the purposes of any worldly splendor (whatever ambition of that kind I may once have felt), but as an instrument in the hands of Divine Providence of extensive benefit to mankind: the first of churches, as the model of pure faith and unfeigned piety to all the kindreds of the world: the first of nations, as the guardian and champion of justice, liberty, and the true rights of man. These, however, are high considerations, and above the reach of human foresight. To us it belongs to use our reason in

seeking the most beneficial ends by the wisest means, and to leave the event with humble confidence to HIM who rules above.

With respect to the latter part of your Letter, I shall only observe, that you greatly mistake the views of the Bible Society, if you suppose they condemn the use of notes and commentaries for elucidating the Scriptures. On the contrary, one of our most active members is now publishing a learned and elaborate Commentary upon them. But the society, as a body, takes no part in this, or any other work of its members. Confident that the Bible alone is able to give wisdom to the simple, it leaves to the Church, to every sect, to every individual, the right of selecting and recommending such further helps as may be necessary for critical research. In so doing, every man will consult his own judgment, and the authority to which he has been accustomed to defer.

I am far, as you well know, from undervaluing the advantages of learning: and I should think, that, upon the ground of literary merit, the Bible Society might claim some countenance in a learned University. We justly prize the profound erudition and indefatigable diligence of the compilers of the Polyglott Bible: but what a Polyglott has the Bible Society produced! Can it lessen the merit of such exertions, that they have been applied to living languages, and to purposes of immediate and important service to mankind?

But literary merit is not (except in a very subordinate degree) the aim of the society; nor the tribunal of learning that at which it is to be judged. Its objects are of a higher order, and far more important to mankind;—and its appeal is to every Christian heart. If you can point out to me any means of promoting these great objects as powerfully, as rapidly, as extensively, without incurring the dangers you apprehend from the Bible Society, I shall readily concur with you in adopting such means; but till you can do so, I think myself bound to persevere: nor do I believe they will ever be found, except in some plan similar to ours. For it is not simply to the diffusion of the Bible, but to the co-operation of all Christians, to diffuse it, and to the effect of such a co-operation on our own hearts, that I look, not only for the establishment of Christian faith, but the extension of Christian charity.

N. VANSITTART.

Great George Street, 12th Feb. 1812.

No. II.

EDITIONS OF THE SCRIPTURES,

ON SALE TO SUBSCRIBERS, AT THE SOCIETY'S DEPOSITORY,

No. 10, Earl Street, Blackfriars, London.

ENGLISH—*BIBLES.*	Cost the Society. s.	d.		Prices to Subscrib. s.	d.
Pocket, Nonpareil type, bound in calf	4	6	...	3	6
Ditto, Minion type	5	7	...	4	2
Nonpareil, 12mo.	4	2	...	3	2
Minion, crown paper, 8vo.	6	0	...	4	6
Brevier, demy paper, 8vo.	7	2	...	5	5
Brevier, medium paper, 8vo. with marginal references,	11	10	...	9	6
Long Primer, demy paper, 8vo.	9	6	...	7	2

	Cost the Society.			Prices to Subscrib.	
ENGLISH—*BIBLES continued.*	s.	d.		s.	d.
Long Primer, super-royal paper, 8vo. with the full references of the authorised 4to. Bible in the margins, fine edition, 2 vols. boards	34	0	...	34	0
Small Pica, medium paper, 8vo. calf	10	6	...	7	10
Ditto, with full references at the end	12	10	...	9	8
Ditto, royal paper, 8vo. with marginal references	14	0	...	10	6
Ditto, royal paper, 8vo. without references, fine edit.	19	6	...	19	6
Ditto, with full references at the end	23	0	...	23	0
Sm. Pica, 4to. *with broad margins for writing upon*, boards,	52	6	...	52	6
ENGLISH—*TESTAMENTS.*					
Pocket, sheep, Minion type	1	6	...	1	0
Ditto, calf	2	1	...	1	6
Brevier, 12mo. cloth	1	3	...	1	0
Ditto sheep	1	6	...	1	2
Ditto calf	2	3	...	1	9
Long Primer, 8vo. sheep	2	2	...	1	8
Ditto calf	3	2	...	2	5
Pica, 8vo. sheep	3	3	...	2	5
Ditto calf	4	3	...	3	2
WELSH.					
Nonpareil Bible, 12mo. calf	4	10	...	3	0
Small Pica Bible, 8vo. calf	12	0	...	7	6
Brevier Testament, 12mo. cloth	1	5	...	1	0
Ditto sheep	1	8	...	1	2
Ditto calf	2	5	...	1	9
Small Pica Testament, 8vo. sheep	3	6	...	2	3
Ditto calf	4	6	...	3	1
GAELIC.					
Brevier Bible, 12mo. calf	6	2	...	4	0
Bourgeois Testament, demy 12mo. sheep	1	9	...	1	2
Ditto calf	2	6	...	1	9
MANKS.					
Brevier Bible, 8vo. calf	8	6	...	5	0
Brevier Testament, 12mo. sheep	2	0	...	1	2
Ditto calf	2	9	...	1	9
IRISH.					
Brevier Bible, 8vo. calf	10	2	...	7	0
Long Primer Testament, 12mo. sheep	2	6	...	1	4
Ditto calf	3	3	...	2	0
Small Pica Testament, Irish character, sheep	3	0	...	1	6
Ditto calf	3	9	...	2	2
FRENCH.					
Nonpareil Bible, 12mo. (Ostervald) calf	6	8	...	5	0
Pocket Bible	5	0	...	3	9
Brevier Testament, 12mo. (Ostervald) sheep	2	0	...	1	6
Ditto calf	2	9	...	2	0
Brevier Testament, 12mo. (De Sacy) sheep	2	0	...	1	6
Ditto calf	2	9	...	2	0
Large Type, 8vo. (Ostervald) calf	5	0	...	3	9
Ditto, 8vo. (De Sacy) calf	5	0	...	3	9
Testament, French & English, in parallel columns, 8vo. calf,	7	0	...	5	3

	Cost the Society.		Prices to Subscrib.	
	s.	d.	s.	d.
SPANISH.				
Brevier Testament, 12mo. (Enzina) sheep	2	0	1	6
Ditto calf	2	9	2	0
Ditto (Scio) sheep	2	0	1	6
Ditto calf	2	9	2	0
PORTUGUEZE.				
Long Primer Bible, 8vo. (De Almeida) calf	8	0	6	0
Brevier Testament, 12mo. (De Almeida) sheep	2	0	1	6
Ditto calf	2	9	2	0
Ditto (Pereira) sheep	2	0	1	6
Ditto calf	2	9	2	0
Long Primer Testament, 8vo. (De Almeida) sheep	2	9	2	0
Ditto calf	3	9	2	10
ITALIAN.				
Brevier Testament, 12mo. (Diodati) sheep	2	0	1	6
Ditto calf	2	9	2	0
Ditto, (Martini) sheep	2	0	1	6
Ditto calf	2	9	2	0
DUTCH.				
Bourgeois Bible, 8vo. calf	7	6	5	8
Ditto, Testament, 12mo. sheep	2	0	1	6
Ditto calf	2	9	2	0
Ditto 8vo. sheep	2	9	2	0
Ditto calf	3	9	2	10
DANISH.				
Bible calf	7	0	5	3
Long Primer Testament, 12mo. sheep	2	0	1	6
Ditto calf	2	9	2	0
ICELANDIC.				
Bible, 8vo.	5	0	3	9
New Testament, crown 8vo.	2	4	1	9
SWEDISH.				
Bible, 8vo. calf	7	5	5	7
New Testament, 8vo. sheep	2	0	1	6
Ditto calf	3	0	2	3
Ditto, 24mo. sheep	1	8	1	3
Ditto calf	2	4	1	9
POLISH.				
Bible, 8vo. calf	11	0	8	3
New Testament, 8vo. calf	2	9	2	0
GERMAN.				
Nonpareil Bible, 12mo.	7	0	5	3
Bourgeois Testament, 24mo. sheep	2	3	1	8
Ditto calf	2	9	2	1
ARMENIAN.				
Bible, royal 4to. calf	25	0	19	0
New Testament, 8vo. calf	5	0	3	9

	Cost the Society.		Prices to Subscrib.	
	s.	d.	s.	d.
MODERN GREEK.				
Long Primer Testament, foolscap 8vo. calf	4	0	4	0
Ditto, with the Antient and Modern Greek in parallel Columns, demy 12mo. calf	6	3	6	3
HEBREW.				
Bible, 8vo.	12	6	12	6
Testament, 8vo.	7	6	7	6
ETHIOPIC.				
The Psalms of David, 8vo. calf	4	0	4	0
Ditto, 4to. calf	7	6	7	6
Ditto, fine paper, extra boards	6	0	6	0
SYRIAC.				
New Testament, crown 4to. calf	12	6	12	6
Ditto demy 4to. boards	11	6	11	6
ARABIC.				
The Psalms of David, royal 18mo. calf	2	0	2	0
TURKISH.				
New Testament, demy 8vo. calf	7	6	7	6
MALAY.				
New Testament, demy 8vo. calf	5	0	5	0
HINDOOSTANEE.				
New Testament, demy 8vo. (Martyn) calf	6	6	6	6
CHINESE.				
New Testament, 12mo. (Morrison) in a case	7	0	7	0

No. III.

EPISCOPAL TESTIMONIES,

IN FAVOUR OF THE GENERAL

CIRCULATION AND PERUSAL OF THE SCRIPTURES,

WITHOUT NOTE OR COMMENT.

The late Bishop HORSLEY'S *Opinion of reading the Bible without Note or Comment.*

"IT should be a rule with every one who would read the holy scriptures with advantage and improvement, to compare every text which may seem either important for the doctrine it may contain, or remarkable for the turn of the expression, with the parallel passages in other parts of holy writ. In doing this, you will imitate the example of the godly Jews of Berœa, which is recorded with approbation in the Acts of the Apostles; who, when Paul and Silas reasoned with them out of the Scriptures of the Old Testament, *searched the Scriptures daily, whether those things were so.* It is incredible to any one, who has not in some degree made the experiment, what a proficiency may be made in that knowledge which maketh wise unto salvation, by studying the Scriptures in this manner, without any other com-

mentary or exposition than what the different parts of the sacred volume mutually furnish for each other.

"I will not scruple to assert, that the most illiterate Christian, if he can but read his English Bible, and will take the pains to read it in this manner, will not only attain all that practical knowledge which is necessary to his salvation, but, by GOD's blessing, he will become learned in every thing relating to his religion, in such degreee that he will not be liable to be misled, either by the refined arguments or false assertions of those who endeavour to engraft their own opinion upon the oracles of GOD. He may safely be ignorant of all philosophy, except what is learned from the sacred books; which indeed contain the highest philosophy, adapted to the lowest apprehensions. He may safely remain ignorant of all history, except so much of the history of the first ages of the Jewish and of the Christian Church as is to be gathered from the canonical books of the Old and New Testament. Let him study these in the manner I recommend; and let him never cease to pray for the illumination of that Spirit by which these books were dictated; and the whole compass of abstruse philosophy and recondite history shall furnish no argument with which the perverse will of man shall be able to shake this learned Christian's faith. The Bible thus studied will, indeed, prove to be what we Protestants esteem it,—a certain and sufficient rule of faith and practice, a helmet of salvation, which alone may quench the fiery darts of the wicked."—*pp.* 223-228 of *Bp. Horsley's Nine Sermons. Lond.* 1815.

In another Volume of Discourses (2d. edit. 1811.) the Bishop expresses himself as follows:—

"It is the glory of our Church, that the most illiterate of her sons are in possession of the Scriptures in their mother tongue. It is their duty to make the most of so great a blessing, by employing as much time as they can spare from the necessary business of their several callings, in the diligent study of the written word. It is GOD's will that all descriptions of men, great and small, rich and poor, learned and ignorant, should come to the knowledge of the truth; that is, of the truths brought to light by the Gospel; not only of the fundamental truths, of faith towards GOD, of repentance from dead works, and of a future judgment, but of all the sublimer truths concerning the scheme of man's redemption." *Serm.* I. *pp.* 3 & 4.

"Our LORD said of himself, that he came to preach the Gospel to the poor: and the same thing may be said of the word of Revelation in general,—that it was given for the instruction of all mankind, the lowest as well as the highest, the most illiterate as well as the wise and learned. It may be reckoned, therefore, a necessary characteristic of Divine Revelation, that it shall be delivered in a manner the most adapted to what are vulgarly called the meanest capacities: and by this perspicuity, both of precept and of doctrine, the whole Bible is remarkably distinguished. For, although St. Peter speaks of some things in it hard to be understood, he speaks of such things only as could never have been understood at all had they not been revealed; and, being revealed, are yet not capable of proof or explanation upon scientific principles, but rest solely on the authority of the Revelation: not that the terms in which these discoveries are made are obscure and ambiguous in their meaning; nor that the things themselves, however hard for the pride of philosophy, are not of easy digestion to an humble faith."

Serm. VIII. *p.* 121.

"The obscurity of the Prophecies, great as it is in some parts, is not such as should discourage the Christian Laic from the study of them, nor such as will excuse him under the neglect of it. Let him remember, that it is the Apostle's admonition, who would not enjoin an useless or impracticable task, to *give heed to the prophetic word.*" *Serm.* XVIII. *p.* 359.

The BISHOP of BANGOR (the late Dr. WARREN) gave the Bible Society in 1804, soon after its establishment, "the benefit of his recommendation; and instructed the Rural Deans throughout his diocese to distribute its plans and solicit benefactions in its favour."

Owen's Hist. of the Bible Society, Vol. I. *p.* 160.

Extract of a LETTER *from the* BISHOP *of* DURHAM *to* LORD TEIGNMOUTH, *dated May* 1, 1810.

"The British and Foreign Bible Society has my warmest wishes for a continuance of success in the important work in which it is engaged;—wishes which were formed on the fullest conviction that its meritorious exertions have contributed, and will contribute, to make known the holy scriptures in the most unenlightened regions of the earth, and to convey to millions what they otherwise would not have enjoyed—the inestimable blessing of the Gospel."

In another Letter, dated May 5th, 1812, he apologized for his non-attendance at the Anniversary on account of indisposition, and sent a second donation of 50*l.* This Prelate has also subscribed liberally to the Cavendish-square Bible Association, of which he is the President or Patron.

Copy of a CIRCULAR LETTER *addressed by the* BISHOP *of* BRISTOL *to the* CLERGY *of his Diocese.*

"REV. SIR, *January* 9, 1810.

"Having been requested by the Committee of the British and Foreign Bible Society to recommend the formation of an Auxiliary Society in the City of Bristol, similar to those which have been established in several great towns throughout the kingdom; I beg leave to state, that such a measure has my hearty approbation, and that it will afford me the greatest pleasure to see it carried into execution.

"I am, Reverend Sir, yours faithfully,

"*Trinity College, Cambridge.* "W. BRISTOL."

"The late BISHOP of SODOR and MAN, in 1811, co-operated with the Society in distributing the Manks Testament throughout his diocese."

Owen's Hist. of the Bible Society, Vol. II. *p.* 55.

Extract of a LETTER *from the* BISHOP *of* NORWICH *to the Rev. Mr.* COBBOLD, *respecting the Formation of the Suffolk Auxiliary Society, dated Dec.* 1811.

"It will be impossible for me to make my appearance in person at the meeting to be holden at Ipswich on the 10th of this month (December). May I request the favour of you to take the chair in my stead? I can with truth add, that I shall have a particular satisfaction in being represented by a Clergyman, whose steady and judicious attachment to our excellent ecclesiastical establishment renders him a peculiarly proper person to promote the success of an institution, so inseparably connected with the best interests of this establishment. "I am, Dear Sir, sincerely yours,

"H. NORWICH."

The BISHOP of SALISBURY has, on several occasions, borne his public testimony to the merits of this institution, in the most decided terms.

The BISHOP of KILDARE, at the Annual Meeting of the British and Foreign Bible Society, in May 1812, after having stated the want and ac-

ceptability of the Scriptures, according to the authorised version, not only among the Protestants, but also among very many of the Roman Catholics in Ireland, and spoken in terms of high commendation of the exertions made by the Hibernian Bible Society of Dublin to meet the exigency, asserted that the ignorance which prevailed in that country on the subject of religion was not to be conceived, and that the doctrines of the Reformation were utterly unknown in many parts of it.

The BISHOP of MEATH, at the same meeting, concurred with the BISHOP of KILDARE, in representing the state of Ireland as deeply needing the benefit which it was in the power of the society to impart. The Bishop remarked, that only the skirts of that cloud, charged with fertilizing showers, to which the noble President had compared this benevolent society, had yet extended to Ireland. His Lordship expressed the warmest satisfaction at witnessing so numerous a meeting, united thus cordially and ardently on an object of so much importance; and assured them that he should endeavour to impart a similar impression to the Clergy of that diocese which constituted the sphere of his labours.

Extract from the SPEECH *of the* BISHOP *of* CLOYNE, *March* 18, 1813.

"As an old member of the Parent Society, I rejoice in the sight of this numerous and respectable meeting, convened for the purpose of forming an Auxiliary. I am proud of the healthy and vigorous offspring which is rising on every side around that parent; and I do think its signal and honest merits have fixed, and are fixing themselves every day, upon the firm and broad basis of decided public opinion. That there should be learned and respectable men, and such men I am afraid are to be found, who object to our principle, and are alarmed at our progress, is to me matter of pure and simple astonishment! Will any one of this assembly stand forward and tell us, that to give a Bible to a poor man, who is unable to purchase one, is unbecoming a Christian assembly? Will any one stand forward and tell us, that to be at the expense and difficulty of translating the Bible into a foreign language, and to send it into a country where the name of the Bible has hardly ever been heard, is likely to produce very dangerous consequences? No, Gentlemen: I know proofs to the contrary; and I agree with the noble Lord who spoke last but one, that in Ireland the limits of this institution are spreading everywhere: I see and converse every day, in my own neighbourhood, with men who have been beyond measure benefitted by the exertions of the society. Go on, then, Gentlemen, in the name of GOD; spread the Word of GOD, without the opinions of man, throughout every part of the world; translate it into every language, and send it into every country. And if this be a crime, it is one of a very singular nature; for our Saviour set the example, the Apostles followed it, and GOD himself has commanded and sanctioned it. I proceed, therefore, to move, that a society be formed, to be called 'The North-West London Auxiliary Bible Society.'"

Extract from the CHARGE *of the* BISHOP *of* ST. DAVID'S, *in* 1813.

"The unexampled success of the British and Foreign Bible Society is very interesting to us, as Christians and Protestants. Auxiliary Societies continue to multiply throughout the united kingdom. A great accession has been very lately made to it, both of numbers and credit, by the establishment of an Auxiliary Society at Oxford. Its only object, the promotion of Christian knowledge, it has in common with the old national society. The old society pursues this end by various means: the new society by one only; but that is one in which all Christians can concur.

"The Bible Society undertakes to distribute the Bible: it confines itself

to the Bible; but it neither obstructs nor discourages the circulation of the Common-Prayer Book (for every member of the society is at liberty to give the Prayer Book with the Bible): but if the society had refused to sell the Bible without the Prayer Book, it would certainly have obstructed the circulation of the Bible. The Society is constituted on this simple and comprehensive principle, that it may not exclude the aid of any persons professing to be Christians. Indeed, no contribution for the distribution of the Bible can be unacceptable, whether it come from a Churchman or Dissenter, from a Christian, Jew, Mahometan, or Heathen."

In a book, entitled "The Bible, and the Bible alone, the Religion of Protestants," his Lordship again speaks highly in commendation of the Bible Society.

Extract of a LETTER *from the late* BISHOP *of* LLANDAFF *to* LORD TEIGNMOUTH, *dated Oct.* 12, 1814.

"Allow me to congratulate your Lordship on the flourishing state of the society: it portends, I trust, the commencement of a new epoch in the history of human kind, when the Christian religion shall be universally received, rightly understood, and conscientiously practised."

Extract of a LETTER *from the* BISHOP *of* CHICHESTER *to the Committee of the British and Foreign Bible Society, dated Aug.* 14, 1815.

"I confess myself extremely gratified with the contents of the Reports of the British and Foreign Bible Society; and might have conceived (had I not heard and known the contrary) that no well-wisher to an extensive dissemination of the Gospel could fail of being so."

The BISHOP of GLOUCESTER, at the 12th Anniversary of the British and Foreign Bible Society, in 1816, spoke as follows:—

"Opposition has been revived, but it has been ably and decisively defeated. Indeed, facts begin now to speak. We find many examples of the practical results of disseminating the pure Word of GOD. The circulation of the Prayer Book has not been lessened; it has, on the contrary greatly increased, during the whole period since the formation of this society—a sufficient evidence that the Established Church is more firmly seated in the affections of the country. The other tendency which the friends of our society thought to be the most probable, begins to appear. The effects of the Bible are becoming daily more and more visible. And what are these effects? The drunkard becomes sober, the profligate chaste, the swearer fears an oath. May the GOD of the Bible grant that this tendency may increase year by year! May the time come, when the Word of GOD shall be in every heart an incorruptible seed, which shall bloom and blossom here, and bring forth fruit to everlasting life!"

The sentiments of the late venerable Dr. PORTEUS, BISHOP of LONDON, are thus delivered to the world, in great part as recorded by the Bishop himself, in his Life, written by his relative Dr. Hodgson, Dean of Chester, and Rector of St. George's, Hanover Square.

"A limitation thus absolute and unequivocal," viz. that the sole and exclusive object of the Society should be the circulation of the Scriptures, and the Scriptures only, without note or comment "removed from the Bishop's mind all doubt and hesitation. He saw instantly that a design of such magnitude, which aimed at nothing less than the dispersion of the Bible over every accessible part of the world, could only be accomplished by the

association of men of all religious persuasions. He looked forward to great results from such a combination of effort. He entertained the hope, that it might operate as a bond of union between contending parties; and that by bringing them together in one point of vast moment, about which there could hardly be a diversity of opinion, it might gradually allay that bitterness of dispute, and put an end to those unhappy divisions, which have so long tarnished the credit of the Christian world. Whilst, therefore, we remained firmly attached to the original society (for promoting Christian Knowledge), whose exertions, as far as its limited sphere allowed, no one ever held in higher estimation, he gave at the same time the sanction of his name without scruple to the new one: and the more he considered its object, and the longer experience he had of the spirit and principles on which it was conducted, the more deeply he was convinced that it merited all the support which the Church of England could give it.

"It is now," he observes in a passage which strongly marks his sentiments; "it is now well known and firmly established, and has completely triumphed over all the attempts made to destroy it. None of those secret dark designs, none of those plots and conspiracies to subvert the Establishment, and devour both the shepherds and their flocks, which were so confidently predicted, by a certain set of men, as the inevitable effect of this society, have yet been discovered in it. It is, in fact, much better employed. It goes on quietly and steadily in the prosecution of its great object, and pays no sort of regard to the sneers and cavils of its intemperate opponents."

In another passage, written at a still later date, he says, "That he cannot but add, in justice to this society, which has been so much opposed, misrepresented, and traduced, that all the important works in which it has been engaged, have been carried on with the utmost harmony and unanimity; without any difference of opinion; without the slightest symptom of any hostile or treacherous design against the Church; and without any other idea upon their minds, but that of extending as widely as possible the knowledge of the Christian Scriptures. The BISHOPS of DURHAM and SALISBURY attended seveveral of their meetings; and were delighted with the decorum, calmness, and good temper, with which their proceedings were conducted. In short, all the apprehensions to which this society has given rise, are now found to be but vain terrors; and all the prophecies of the mischief and evil that would result from it, are falsified by facts. It is rising uniformly in reputation and credit; gaining new accessions of strength and revenue; and attaching to itself, more and more, the approbation and support of every real friend to the Church and to religion."

SPECIMENS OF THE TYPES OF THE SOCIETY'S BIBLES AND TESTAMENTS.

ENGLISH SMALL-PICA BIBLE, Octavo.
(*Cost the Society*, 10s. 6d.)

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth! *Isai.* lii. 7.

WELSH BIBLE, Octavo. 12*s.*
——— TESTAMENT, Octavo, *in sheep*, 3*s.* 6*d.*
——— DITTO..... *in calf*, 4*s.* 6*d.*

LONG PRIMER BIBLE, with References,
(Super-Royal Paper) Octavo. 34*s.*

Say among the heathen *that* [k]the LORD reigneth: the world also shall be established that it shall not be moved: [l]he shall judge the people righteously. *Psalm* xcvi. 10.

k Ps. xciii. 1. & xcvii. 1. Rev. xi. 15. & xix. 6.

l ver. 13. Ps. xxvii. 4. & xcviii. 9.

DITTO, without References, Demy Paper. 9*s.* 6*d.*

BREVIER BIBLE, Octavo. 7*s.* 2*d.*

And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart, and with a willing mind: for the LORD searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever. 1 *Chron.* xxviii. 9.

DITTO, with References in the Margins. 11*s.* 10*d.*

MINION BIBLE, Octavo.
(*Cost the Society*, 6s.)

Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. *Isai.* lv. 7.

POCKET MINION BIBLE, Twenty-fours.
(5*s.* 7*d.*)

Search the Scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me. *John* v. 39.

——— TESTAMENT, *in sheep*, 1*s.* 6*d.*
——— DITTO..... *in calf*, 2*s.* 1*d.*

ENGLISH NONPAREIL BIBLE, 12mo.
(4*s.* 2*d.*)

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. *John* iii. 16.

WELSH NONPAREIL BIBLE, 12mo.
(4*s.* 10*d.*)

POCKET BIBLE, Nonpareil type. 4*s.* 6*d.*

Come, now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD; though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. *Isai.* i. 18.

PICA TESTAMENT, Octavo.
(*Cost Society, in sheep*, 3s. 3d.)

Let us not be weary in well doing; for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. *Gal.* vi. 9.

DITTO, *in calf*, 4*s.* 3*d.*

LONG PRIMER TESTAMENT, Octavo.
(*In sheep*, 2s. 2d.)

And they were all amazed, and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galileans? And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born? *Acts* ii. 7, 8.

DITTO, *in calf*, 3*s.* 2*d.*

BREVIER TESTAMENT, 12mo.
(*In sheep*, 1s. 6d.)

All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. 2 *Tim.* iii. 16.

DITTO, *in calf*, 2*s.* 3*d.*

BREVIER WELSH TESTAMENT, 12mo.
(*In sheep*, 1s. 8d.)

Yr holl ysgrythyr *sydd* wedi ei rhoddi gan ysprydoliaeth Duw, ac *sydd* fuddiol i athrawiaethu, i argyhoeddi, i geryddu, i hyfforddi mewd cyfiawnder: 2 *Tim.* iii. 16.

DITTO, *in calf*, 2*s.* 5*d.*

No. V.

BRIEF VIEW

OF THE

BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY.

APRIL, 1821.

PRESIDENT—Right Hon. LORD TEIGNMOUTH.

VICE-PRESIDENTS:

Rt. Hon. & Most Rev. Archbp. of Cashel.
Rt. Hon. & Most Rev. Archbp. of Tuam.
Hon. & Rt. Rev. Lord Bishop of Durham.
Rt. Rev. Lord Bishop of Chichester.
Rt. Rev. Lord Bishop of St. David's.
Rt. Rev. Lord Bishop of Salisbury.
Rt. Rev. Lord Bishop of Norwich.
Hon. & Rt. Rev. Lord Bp. of Gloucester.
Rt. Rev. Lord Bishop of Meath.
Rt. Rev. Lord Bishop of Kildare.
Rt. Rev. Lord Bishop of Derry.
The Very Rev. the Dean of Bristol.
Rt. Hon. Earl of Harrowby, President of the Council.
Most Noble Marquess of Hastings, Governor-General of India.
Rt. Hon. Earl of Liverpool, First Lord of the Treasury, &c.
Rt. Hon. Earl of Romney.
Rt. Hon. Admiral Lord Gambier.
Rt. Hon. Lord Headley.
Rt. Hon. Nicolas Vansittart, M.P. Chancellor of the Exchequer, &c.
Rt. Hon. Sir Evan Nepean, Bart.
His Excellency Sir Gore Ouseley, Bart.
William Wilberforce, Esq. M.P.
Charles Grant, Esq.
Thomas Babington, Esq.

TREASURER,

JOHN THORNTON, Esq. King's Arms-Yard, Coleman Street.

SECRETARIES (*gratis*):

Rev. John Owen, M.A. Rector of Paglesham, Essex.
Rev. Joseph Hughes, M.A. Battersea.
Rev. Charles Fr. Ad. Steinkopff, D.D. Minister of the German Lutheran Church, Savoy, London.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY AND ACCOUNTANT—Mr. Joseph Tarn.

ASSISTANT FOREIGN SECRETARY—Mr. E. F. Roenneberg.

DEPOSITARY—Mr. Richard Cockle. COLLECTOR—Mr. Anthony Wagner.

N.B. *It is requested that all Letters to the President, or to any of the officers, may be addressed to them respectively at the Society's House, 10, Earl Street, Blackfriars, London.*

PLAN OF THE SOCIETY.

THE Object of the British and Foreign Bible Society is, exclusively, to promote the circulation of the holy scriptures, without note or comment, both at home or abroad. By a fundamental law of the society, the copies circulated in the languages of the United Kingdom, are to be those of the authorised version only.

The Constitution of the society admits the co-operation of all persons who are disposed to concur in its support.

The Proceedings of the society are conducted by a Committee, consisting of thirty-six laymen, six of whom are foreigners residing in London and its vicinity: half of the remainder are members of the Church of England; and the other half, members of other denominations of Christians.

The President, Vice-Presidents, Treasurer, and Secretaries, are, *ex officio*, Members of the Committee; and every clergyman or dissenting minister, who is a member of the society, is entitled to attend and vote at all meetings of the Committee.

One guinea annually constitutes a member; five guineas annually a

Governor; ten guineas at one time, a Life Member; fifty pounds, a Life Governor. Governors are entitled to attend and vote in the Committee.

Members are entitled to purchase Bibles and Testaments, at reduced prices, to five times the amount of their annual subscription;—donors of ten guineas being classed with annual subscribers of one guinea; and donors of fifty pounds, with those of five guineas.

N.B. Auxiliary Societies contributing the whole of their funds (necessary expenses excepted) are allowed to draw for Bibles and Testaments, estimated at prime cost, to half the amount of the sum so contributed: their members retaining the same privilege of purchasing Bibles and Testaments at the local depository at reduced prices, as the Members of the Parent Society enjoy from the London depository. The Auxiliary Societies are also entitled to purchase with the funds, and on behalf of Bible Associations, any number of Bibles and Testaments at prime cost.

In the present age, no circumstance claims more strongly the notice and approbation of every friend to Christianity, than the zeal displayed for the circulation of the holy scriptures, and the facilities provided for the accomplishment of this object. Our forefathers have long been honoured with the gratitude they deserve, for having, at the period of the Reformation, laid open those heavenly treasures to the eyes of the people. Societies were subsequently formed, schools were founded, and other regulations adopted, for promoting this desirable work. Little however, comparatively, was done towards generalizing the knowledge of the Bible till within the last fifty years; when an increased attention to education brought the minds of the common people more extensively into cultivation, and multiplied the readers of the Scriptures to a degree beyond all former example. To this, and other causes of similar operation, may be ascribed the superior estimation into which the Scriptures have risen of late years, and the strong disposition which has been manifested to promote their diffusion and reception among all orders of society. At length, an expedient was devised, of equal simplicity, liberality, and wisdom, for accomplishing this purpose, on a scale which promises eventually to comprehend, not merely the inhabitants of the British Empire, or the population of Christendom, but the whole family of man. This expedient was, to circulate the sacred text, upon which Christians in general are agreed, and to which they appeal as their common standard, without human interpretation, criticism, or comment. The proposition was acceded to, and practically adopted, by a respectable body, consisting of members from various communions of professing Christians; and it was recommended to public patronage and support, in the year 1804, under the designation of "The British and Foreign Bible Society."

The institution was regarded with considerable interest. To some indeed it appeared so doubtful an experiment, that they could not be prevailed upon to join immediately in giving it the trial; while others, and those not a few, of almost every persuasion, saw in it the germ of Christian concord and social happiness, and rallied round it, as a standard of piety and peace and pure religion.

Lord Teignmouth accepted the appointment of President; as did the Bishops of London, Durham, Salisbury, and St. David's, together with certain lay-lords and gentlemen of the highest character, that of Vice-Presidents. Thus constituted and patronized, from the popularity of its plan, and the exertions of its conductors, it obtained a rapid establishment in the world; and may be considered as already possessing a larger and more efficient operation than was ever acquired in so short a time by any charitable institution.

Upon its first appearance before the public, Wales and Scotland rivalled each other and their fellow-christians in England by the promptitude and

liberality of their support. Ireland did not remain uninterested in this strife of love; but manifested as strong a disposition as its local impediments would allow, to aid in promoting so glorious a work. The continent of Europe felt the impulse which London had excited; and evinced the effects of it, in local associations for prosecuting the same common purpose, after the example and by the aid of the Parent Institution. Asia displayed a similar spirit; and Calcutta (where certain individuals from the Baptist Society had made a most auspicious beginning in the work of translations) became the seat of a Corresponding Committee; professing, in the name, and chiefly by the funds of the Society in London, to aid and encourage translations of the Scriptures into all the vernacular dialects of the East. This initiatory measure led to the formation of "the Calcutta Auxiliary Bible Society"—an event which has since been followed by the establishment of similar institutions at Bombay, Madras, Ceylon, Sumatra, Java, and Amboyna. At Prince of Wales's Island, a Branch Society has been regularly constituted in connexion with the Calcutta Auxiliary Society, which has also received considerable aid from Malacca. America caught the same holy ardour; and a similar union of Christians, upon kindred principles, and with the same object in view, was speedily witnessed in various places throughout the United States; to many of which, in proportion as they became known, encouragement and assistance were liberally afforded.

In order to form a just conception of the British and Foreign Bible Society, and to prognosticate its effects on the civilized world, it will be necessary to view it a little more nearly, and to enter more particularly into the details of its present vast and increasing magnitude.

The centre of this institution is in London. Its component parts are chiefly to be traced in Auxiliary Societies, Branch Societies, and Bible Associations, formed under its encouragement, and contributory to its object, in the different counties, towns, and villages of Great Britain; and in various stations of importance, throughout the other portions of the world. Its Auxiliary and Branch Societies alone, within the United Kingdom, already amount to 630; in the British Dominions, to 672.—On the Continent of Europe, it has produced kindred institutions of great activity, and operating under the highest and most respectable patronage, in the capitals of Prussia, Sweden, Denmark, Russia, the United Netherlands, Wurtemberg, Hanover, Saxony, France, &c.; in the principal cantons of Switzerland; together with numerous Branch Societies, and minor Associations, in those and other European countries. In Malta, the Ionian Islands, and Athens, Bible Societies have been established. In Asia it also possesses, as has already been stated, Auxiliaries, at Smyrna, Calcutta, Bombay, Madras, Colombo, Sumatra, and in New South Wales, with a Branch Society at Van Diemen's Land.

The societies established in those places consist of individuals of different Christian denominations, many of them eminent for piety, learning, and station; and they are honoured with the countenance and support of the respective governments. Through these Associations, and the instruments employed under their direction and encouragement, the Society at home will be enabled to contribute considerably towards furnishing the native Christians in India (amounting to nearly a *million*) with Bibles; to produce correct versions of the Scriptures in the various languages of the East; and to open channels for their circulation among millions of people, who might otherwise have remained utter strangers to the words of eternal life. In Africa, it is chiefly employed in distributing copies of the Scriptures, furnished from its domestic depository: but the establishment of Auxiliary Societies for the Mauritius, the Isle of Bourbon and dependencies; for Sierra Leone and its vicinity; and still more recently, at the Cape of Good Hope, under the immediate patronage of the respective governors; encourages a belief that

something more extensive and effectual will be done for enlightening and christianizing that dark and degraded portion of the globe.

In America, the object of the Society is prosecuted by the Bible Societies of Nova Scotia, at Halifax, with thirteen Branch Societies, besides those of New Brunswick, Pictou, Yarmouth, and Liverpool: several in the Canadas, at Prince Edward's Island, Berbice, and Honduras. A National Society has been recently established under the title of "The American Bible Society," to which, within the first year of its existence, nearly 100 Auxiliaries united themselves, and with which no fewer than 235 are now connected; and the total number of Bible Societies within the United States exceeds 260, all produced by the example of the British and Foreign Bible Society, acting in harmony with it, and occasionally aided by its funds. In the West Indies, the Auxiliary Societies of the British Colonists at Barbadoes, Antigua, and the Bermudas, with those of the People of Colour at Jamaica and Antigua, are worthy of notice. In addition to these regular and organized bodies, the British and Foreign Bible Society has correspondents both among the Clergy and the Laity, in different parts of the world, actively engaged in promoting its designs, by dispersing, at its expense, the sacred oracles of divine truth, "*to men of every nation under heaven.*"

In less than sixteen years it has issued *Three Millions* of copies of the Scriptures. In England, it has printed the Scriptures, or parts thereof, at its own expense, in the English, Welsh, Gaelic, Irish, Manks, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, Dutch, Danish, German, Ancient and Modern Greek, Hebrew, Syriac, Malay, Arabic, Ethiopic, Esquimaux, Mohawk, and Bullom languages. In Europe, it has largely aided the printing of them in the French, Italian, Romanese, German, Bohemian, Wendish, Hungarian, Lithuanian, Polish, Danish, Swedish, Finnish, Laponese, Icelandic, Georgian, Samogitian, Wallachian, Tartar, Turkish, Calmuc, Esthonian, Lettonian, Armenian, Slavonian, and Russian languages. In Asia, it has promoted, by liberal and repeated contributions, the translation and publication of them in Hindoostanee, Bengalee, Persian, Arabic, Mahratta, Malayalim, Sanscrit, Chinese, Telinga, Tamul, Malay, Orissa, Seik, Burman, Carnatica, and several other dialects. The result of these operations has been, that many countries, remotely distant from each other, and from the parent source of supply, have already been furnished with copies of the Scriptures in their respective languages; and means have been provided for insuring, under the auspices of Divine Providence, a diffusion of the same blessing among those nations on which the sun of Revelation has never yet risen.

The impressions made by this Catholic institution on the objects of its kindness both at home and abroad, have manifested themselves in addresses replete with expressions of the most genuine pathos. It appears impossible for persons not enslaved by prejudice, or destitute of Christian sensibility, to read, without emotion, the foreign communications which enrich the Society's Annual Reports. To receive acknowledgments for the best of all gifts, from persons of every language and communion, on continents and islands, whether kindred or aliens, bond or free, friends or enemies,—and those acknowledgments conveyed in the language of their hearts, and written in their tears,—is a felicity which no words can adequately express.

After presenting this Sketch of the institution, any thing like a formal appeal, on its behalf, to the liberality of the public, would be superfluous. When it is considered that the society is engaged in promoting the translation, printing, or distribution of versions of the Scriptures, in *One Hundred and Thirty-two* different languages and dialects; that it stands pledged to aid the several Bible Societies already formed, and still forming, in different parts of the world; and that, after issuing nearly *Three Millions* of copies of

the Scriptures; and expending more than *Nine Hundred Thousand Pounds*, the demands upon its services appear rather to have increased than diminished;—when these circumstances, together with the simplicity of its principle, the catholicism of its spirit, and the correctness of its proceedings, are deliberately considered, no additional motive can be wanted to stimulate the inhabitants of the British Empire to promote, by all the means in their power, the interests of an institution, which promises, if liberally and extensively supported, to become *a blessing to the whole earth*.

No. VI.

COMPENDIUM

OF THE

BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY.

APRIL, 1821.

AUXILIARY AND BRANCH SOCIETIES IN THE BRITISH DOMINIONS, INCLUDING THOSE IN CONNEXION WITH THE HIBERNIAN BIBLE SOCIETY:

Auxiliaries	305
Branches	367
Total	672

BIBLE SOCIETIES AIDED BY THE BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY:

Europe.	Instituted
1. Bâsle	1804
2. Zurich	1812
3. Chur	1813
4. Schaffhausen	1813
5. St. Gall	1813
6. Aargovian	1815
7. Bern.	
8. Lausanne	1814
9. Geneva	1814
10. Neufchâtel	1816
11. Waldenses, at La Tour	1816
12. Glarus	1819
13. Hungarian, at Presburg	1812
14. Kœnigsfeld	1816
15. Wurtemberg, at Stutgardt with Branches at Tuebingen, Haidenhelm, &c.	1812
16. Grand Duchy of Baden	1820
17. Strasburg	1815
18. Hesse Darmstadt comprehending, among other Auxiliaries, those previously formed at Michaelstadt, in the Oldenwald, and at Worms, and a sister institution at Giessen.	1817
19. Hanau	1818
20. Hesse Cassel	1818
21. Ratisbon	1805
22. Hesse-Homburg	1816
23. Nassau, Duchy	1816
24. Frankfort	1816
25. Berg, at Elberfeld with Auxiliary Societies at Solingen, &c. and Bible Associations in the Manufactories.	1814
26. Cologne	1814
27. Kreutznach	1816
28. New-Wied & WiedRunckel,	1816
29. Waldeck and Pyrmont	1817
30. Lippe-Detmold	1816
31. Hanover with Auxiliary Societies at Osnaburg, Aurich, and Bueckeburg.	1814
32. Göttingen	1818
33. Hildesheim	1818
34. Bremen with an Auxiliary at Vegesack.	1815
35. Hambro-Altona	1814
36. Luebeck (City of)	1814
37. Eutin, for the Principality of Luebeck	1817
38. Pomerania and Rügen, at Stralsund	1815
39. Lauenburg-Ratzeburg	1816
40. Mecklenburg-Schwerin	1816
41. Rostock	1816
42. Brunswick	1815
43. Berlin	1805
44. Prussian with thirty-eight Auxiliary Societies at Potsdam, Dantzig, Memel, Posen, Halle, Magdeburg, Breslau, Wesel, Cleve, Stettin, Stralsund, and other places.	1814

45. Kœnigsberg, 1812; enlarged 1815
46. Thuringian, at Erfurt . . 1814
47. Wetzlar 1819
48. Eichsfeld 1815
with an Auxiliary Society at Nordhausen.
49. Eisenach 1818
50. Anhalt Koethen . . . 1818
51. Saxon Bible Society . . 1814
and Auxiliaries in Leipsic, Herrnhut, &c.
52. Icelandic Bible Society . 1815
53. Russian, at St. Petersburgh, 1813 with its 196 Auxiliaries at Moscow, Dorpat, Mittau, Riga, Revel, Yaroslaff, Arensburg, Irkutsk, Voronez, Vladimir, Kamentz-Podolsk, Theodosia, Tula, Sympheropol, Odessa, Cronstadt, Wilna, Moghilef, Witepsk, Grodno, Minsk, Kostroma, Pscow, Pensa, Charkow, Saratow, Simbirsk, Resan, Taganrog, Bialastock, Tcherkask, Wiatka, Kiew, Pernau, Twer, Kasan, Krasnojarsk, Tiflis, Kursk, Orlow, Bessarabia, Tambow, Perm, Nischnenovogorod, Poltawa, Ischewsky, and other places:

These have undertaken the printing of the Scriptures, in the Twenty-three following Languages and Dialects:—
Calmuc; the Gospels of St. Matthew and St. John, in which language the Scriptures were never printed before.
Buriat Mongolian Gospels of St. Matthew and St. John.
Armenian Bibles and Testaments.
Finnish Bibles and Testaments, for the use of the Finnish Inhabitants in the Government of St. Petersburg.
German Bibles and Testaments.
Ditto Testaments, Catholic version.
Polish Bibles and New Testaments.
French Bibles and Testaments.
Slavonian Bibles and Testaments.
Dorpatian-Esthonian Testaments.
Revalian-Esthonian Testaments.
Lettonian, or Lettish Testaments.
Persian Testaments.
Georgian Testaments.
Samogitian Testaments.
Antient Greek Bibles.
Modern Greek Testaments.
Moldavian Bibles and Testaments.
Tartar Testaments, Gospels, and Psalters, &c.
Modern Russian and Slavonian Gospels and Acts, in two columns.
Turkish Armenian New Testaments.
Tschuwash Four Gospels.
Carelian Gospel of Matthew.

54. Finnish, at Abo, 1812; with Auxiliaries at Kuopio, Uleaborg, Bjornaborg, Wasa, Tavastehus, Borgo, and Wiborg.
55. Swedish, 1809; enlarged 1814; with its Auxiliaries at Gothenburg, Westeras, Wisby, Lund, Upsala, Askersund, Hernosand, Skara, Carlstadt, Wexio, Carlscrona, Linkoping, and Calmar.
56. Norwegian 1816
57. Danish, 1814; with Auxiliaries at Odensee, Aalborg, Kioge, Lyngbye, Friedericea.
58. Sleswick-Holstein, 1815; with Auxiliaries at Flensburg, Meldorf, Kiel, Ploen, Tonderen, &c., Husum, Hadersleben, Apenrade, Oldenburg, &c.: in all, 118 Auxiliaries.
59. Rendsburg 1817
60. Polish, at Warsaw . . . 1816
61. Netherlands' Bible Society; comprehending, among others, the following districts; viz. Amsterdam, Rotterdam, The Hague, Enkhuysen, Utretcht, Haerlem, Leyden, Arnheim, Dordt, Assen, Vlaerdingen, Groningen, Delft, Leeuwarden, Middleburg, Vollenhoven, Goes, Schiedam, Oud Beyerland, Zutphen, Alkmaar, Maassluys, Gorcum, Hillegondsberg, Zwoll, Zirczee, Zalt Bommel, Breda, Amersfoort, Nimeguen, Bleigswick, Campen, Deventer, Edam, Putten, Tholen, Zaanland den Briel, Gouda, Schoonhoven, Heusden, Nykerk, Culenborg, Jisselstein, Medemblick.
62. Malta 1817
63. Paris Protestant, 1818; with Auxiliaries at Nismes, Larochelle, Bordeaux, Toulouse, Tonniens.
64. Montauban 1817
65. Ionian, at Corfu, 1819; with Auxiliaries at Cephalonia, Zante, Ithaca, and Paxos.
66. Athens 1819

Asia.

1. Calcutta, 1814; with Branches at Malacca, and Prince of Wales's Island.
2. Colombo (in Island of Ceylon) 1812
3. Bombay 1813
4. Sumatra, at Fort Marlboro', 1818
5. New S. Wales, with Branch at Van Deimen's Land . 1817
6. Java 1814
7. Amboyna 1815
8. Smyrna 1818
9. Astrachan 1815
10. Tobolsk 1817
11. Madras 1820

Africa.

1. Mauritius & Bourbon, Isl. of, 1813
2. Caledon 1815
3. Sierra Leone 1816
4. Cape of Good Hope . . . 1820

	Institute
America and West Indies.	
American NATIONAL, New York, 1816	
About TWO HUNDRED AND SIXTY exist in the *United States;* (of which 233 are Auxiliary to the National Society) several of which, as well as the above, have been aided by the British and Foreign Bible Society.	
Nova Scotia, at Halifax . .	1813
with Branch Societies; viz. Annapolis, Antigonishe, Barrington, Douglas, Chester, Cornwallis, Cumberland, Hampshire, Horton, Londonderry, Parrsborough, Dorchester, Shelburne, Truro.	

	Instituted
Pictou	1813
Yarmouth and Argyle . . .	1816
Liverpool	1817
Prince Edward's Island . .	1817
Quebec	1813
Niagara	1816
Upper-Canada Midland District,	1817
Berbice	1815
Honduras	1818
Jamaica; People of Colour .	1813
Antigua	1815
Barbadoes	1818
Bermudas	1819
New Brunswick	1820

EDITIONS *printed for the Society, previously to March* 31, 1821.

	Bibles.	Testaments.
English, various edits.	1145,961	1,038,780
Welsh	60,297	104,252
Gaelic	28,500	43,700
Irish	5,000	17,801
Manks	5,000	2,250
French	18,000	81,000
Spanish	—	35,000
Portuguese	5,000	30,000
Italian	—	19,000
Dutch	10,000	15,000
Danish	800	10,000
Hebrew	500	3,700
Swedish	—	500
German	8,000	38,000

	Bibles.	Testaments.
Do. Hebrew Charac.	—	1,600
Greek Antient & Mod.	—	13,000
Greek, Modern	—	10,000
Arabic	1,450	5,000
Arabic Psalter	3,000	—
Syriac	—	6,000
Esquimaux	—	1,000
Mohawk, St John's Gos.	—	2,000
Ethiopic Psalter	2,100	—
French and English.	—	5,000
Malay	—	10,000
Malay, in Arabic Charact.	—	10,000
Turkish	—	5,000
Hindoostanee	—	5,000

ISSUES OF BIBLES, &c.

	Bibles.	Testaments.	Total.
From March 7, 1804, to Sept. 17, 1805, none were issued; the Universities not having completed their stereotype editions.			
From Sept. 17, 1805, to Mar. 31, 1808, (2½ *years*) .	16,544	64,613	81,157
Mar. 31, 1808, to Mar. 25, 1809, (1 *year*) . . .	35,910	41,362	77,272
Mar. 25, 1809, to Feb. 16, 1810, (*nearly* 9 *mo.*	18,662	45,806	64,468
Feb. 16, 1810, to Mar. 25, 1811, (13 *months*)	33,609	69,009	102,618
Mar. 25, 1811, to Feb. 21, 1812, (11 *months*)	35,690	70,733	106,423
Feb. 21, 1812, to Dec. 31, 1812, (10 *months*)	81,319	121,261	202,580
Dec. 31, 1812, to Mar. 31, 1814, (1¼ *year*) . .	167,320	185,249	352,569
Mar. 31, 1814, to Mar. 31, 1815, (1 *year*) . . .	126,156	123,776	249,932
Mar. 31, 1815, to Mar. 31, 1816, (1 *year*) . . .	138,168	110,068	248,236
Mar. 31, 1816, to Mar. 31, 1817, (1 *year*) . . .	92,239	100,782	193,021
Mar. 31, 1817, to Mar. 31, 1818, (1 *year*) . . .	89,795	104,306	194,101
Mar. 31, 1818, to Mar. 31, 1819, (1 *year*) . . .	123,247	136,784	260,031
Mar. 31, 1819, to Mar. 31, 1820, (1 *year*) . . .	115,775	141,108	256,883
Mar. 31, 1820, to Mar. 31, 1821, (1 *year*) . . .	104,828	142,129	246,957
Total issued in Great Britain in 15½ years	1,179,262	1,456,986	2,636,248
Purchased and issued for the Society on the Continent of Europe	97,205	468,525	565,730
TOTAL issued on account of the Society	1,276,467	1,925,511	3,201,978
Printed by Societies in connexion with the British and Foreign Bible Society	673,820	797,900	1,471,720

N.B. In addition to the above, the Society has granted about 35,000*l.* for distributing, by Societies and confidential Agents, in various parts of the Continent, Bibles and Testaments in the French, German, Swedish, and Danish Languages; the number of which cannot be ascertained exactly, but may be fairly estimated at upwards of 235,000 Bibles and Testaments.

EXPENDITURE.

	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
First Year	691	10	2	Tenth Year	84,652	1	5
Second Year	1,637	17	5	Eleventh Year . . .	81,021	12	5
Third Year	5,053	18	3	Twelfth Year . . .	103,680	18	8
Fourth Year	12,206	10	3	Thirteenth Year . .	89,230	9	9
Fifth Year	14,565	19	7	Fourteenth Year .	71,099	1	7
Sixth Year	18,543	17	1	Fifteenth Year . .	92,237	1	4
Seventh Year . . .	28,302	13	7	Sixteenth Year . .	123,847	12	3
Eighth Year	32,419	19	7	Seventeenth Year .	79,560	13	6
Ninth Year	69,496	13	8				

Total, from the Commencement of the Institution . £. 908,248 10 6

No. VII.

THE ADVANTAGES OF DISTRIBUTING THE HOLY SCRIPTURES AMONG THE LOWER ORDERS OF SOCIETY, CHIEFLY BY THEIR OWN AGENCY.

(*Written by the Rev.* W. DEALTRY.)

WHOEVER is acquainted with the history of the Reformation, cannot fail to have observed the extreme anxiety displayed by our Martyrs and Reformers for the free circulation of the Bible. The same feeling has been found to animate wise and good men in every age, since the promulgation of the Gospel: and some of the charitable institutions which have arisen in modern times, hold out the pleasing assurance, that this Christian principle still survives; that many are still emulous to follow the example before them, and are in some degree influenced by the spirit of those who have long since gone to the resting-place of the just.

One of the most important and effective institutions which the world has ever seen, is the British and Foreign Bible Society. Its means are great, but its projects are magnificent. It proposes to do nothing less than to diffuse the blessings of Revelation to all men. Its operations must be considered in a two-fold view: as a British Society, it directs its first regards to the wants at home; and as a Foreign Society, it encourages the re-printing and dissemination of acknowledged versions where they already exist, and promotes translations, and the circulation of the Scriptures, where they are wholly unknown.

The efforts and utility of such an institution can be limited only by its means: and in proportion to the augmentation of its funds, will it extend the empire of knowledge and of truth. The assistance which has been afforded by Auxiliary Societies in many parts of the country, can hardly be estimated at too high a rate. By calling the attention of the opulent to the want of Bibles in their own vicinity, they have contributed very essentially to the benefit of thousands, who might otherwise have remained in ignorance; and by aiding the funds of the Parent Institution, they have enabled it to carry on its foreign operations with great and increasing success. Many are the prayers which have ascended from distant lands on behalf of their benefactors in Britain; and many are the blessings which have been invoked on their heads.

That a project of this godlike tendency, so full of mercy, and so abundant in reward, should be checked or narrowed by the want of resources, is a circumstance deeply to be lamented. Yet nothing is more certain, than, that the efforts already made, however glorious, and however unexampled, are not commensurate with the magnitude of the case. Here is a world in ignorance! a world to be enlightened and evangelized! To the reflecting mind it must be obvious, that a plan, which shall at the same time adequately supply the demands at home, and effectually meet the hopes and expectations of those myriads of human beings, who, in other lands, suffer "a famine of the Word of the Lord," must be supported by more general interest, or aided by more extensive means.

To complete the system which has commenced and been conducted with such happy results, no measure seems to have occurred of such reasonable promise as Bible Associations. The contributors to the Parent Institution, and to its Auxiliaries and Branches in different parts of the country, consist in general of that class of persons who are somewhat elevated in the scale of society. It is the object of Bible Associations to bring into action also the poorer classes; to collect subscriptions, not merely from the opulent, but likewise from that large body of the people, who are unable to give much, and yet are not unwilling to give a little. If the number of contributors be great, the accumulation even of small sums will not be contemptible; and it may be presumed, that most persons who are not absolutely in the lowest walks of life, can afford a subscription of a penny a week.

In illustration of the system, it may be proper to observe, that while the Committees of such Associations are formed from the contributors themselves, yet the stimulus must be afforded by others. On the formation of an Auxiliary or Branch Society, the members of the Committee (under the designation of District Committees) should select certain districts for their own more immediate exertions, and endeavour to awaken the attention of the poorer classes to the importance of rendering whatever aid they can afford. It would be expedient to appoint a numerous Committee for each Association, in order that a greater interest may be excited, and that the wants of the poor may be more accurately known. The members of the District Committees should also regularly sit with the Committees of Bible Associations. A proper direction will thus be given to their efforts; a similarity of system will be maintained; and the Parent Society, with all its auxiliaries and dependencies, will thus present a perfect whole, correspondent in plan and united in harmony: a noble fabric, in which all the parts are combined at once for beauty and for strength; whose foundations are laid deep in the ground, but its pillars are seen from afar, and its turrets sparkle in the skies.

As the object and tendency of the measure here recommended is to promote the widest circulation of the Scriptures, and to excite the greatest attention to them, through the whole masss of the community, it may seem almost superfluous to enlarge upon the benefits which must result from its adoption. In a land professing to be Christian, where is the man who would arrest the free streams of heavenly mercy? Where is the man who would not rather rejoice to behold every mound and barrier swept away by the ample tide?—to see the liberal current "overflow and pass over" in all its rich and fertilizing influence? that the soil which has hitherto been parched and unfruitful, or "fertile only to its own disgrace," may smile in new attraction, and cheer the eye with strange luxuriance.

If, in these awful times,* we conceive ourselves to be placed on an eminence, from which we may contemplate the ever-varying scenes which

* This was written when a desolating war prevailed on the continent of Europe.

are flitting around us, how melancholy is the prospect! The face of nature indeed continues the same; the works of creation still reflect the wisdom and goodness of the Creator; seed-time and harvest, and summer and winter, acknowledge their appointed course; the earth expands her beauties to the day, and the lights of heaven still rise and descend, obedient to the will that formed them. But the moral world is thrown into convulsions; the image of God is defaced; the impress of the Divine Hand seems to be almost obliterated; and the best and chiefest of his works—for the sake of which this fair and fertile earth is commanded to yield her increase, and the lights of heaven to travel on their destined way—presents little else than the fragments of a mighty wreck. Public principle has been violated; public order inverted: the fury of the nations has shaken, even to their base, the pillars of civilized society, and the stately edifice itself seems tottering to its fall.

These are scenes at which wise men are confounded, and good men turn pale. Nor will the considerate mind be much eased of its anxiety, by turning to the occurrences of private life, especially among the ignorant and uninstructed. In poverty there is nothing which necessarily tends to debase the character. Many have "wandered about in sheep-skins and goat-skins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented, of whom the world was not worthy:" "the Son of Man" had "not where to lay his head:"—but who can dwell, without emotion, upon the wretched state of the untutored and irreligious poor? It is here that we see human-nature in its lowest condition, degraded and sunk in shame. We behold a creature formed after the Divine resemblance, but without one feature remaining to indicate his heavenly origin. For him there exists no reciprocal charity, no real union of affection, no Christian sentiment of mutual regard. To these feelings he is unable to rise; he knows them not, neither does he desire to know them. That state which was intended by the Giver of every good and perfect gift, to add, above all earthly means, to the happiness of man, by the society of one who should be at the same time the ornament and the blessing of social life, presents little else than the spectacle of cruelty and of suffering. The wickedness of the parent is reflected in his offspring. Scarcely has the infant tongue learned to articulate, before it begins to blaspheme its Maker. The language of cursing and reviling is there; and those who ought to be the pledges of affection, contribute only to exasperate evil, and accumulate misery,—the scandal of their neighbours, and the disgrace of their kind; without comfort in this world, and without hope for the next.

Many are the evils, both of a public and private nature, to which human legislation can apply no remedy: they are to be removed by that influence alone which can reach the heart; by those sacred principles, which are developed and enforced in the records of unerring wisdom. The Scriptures have ever been acknowledged, by good men, as the best foundation of morals: and those who labour to give them general circulation, and to excite a general interest for the perusal of them throughout the great body of the people, must be considered as rendering no common service, both to individuals and their country.

Let it be granted, that by any means the holy scriptures are perused with diligence by every poor man who is able to read them;—What would be the consequence? Is it too much to hope, that the noise of tumult and disorder may be hushed in peace? that men may be taught to fear God and to honour the king—to do unto others as they wish that others should do unto them—and to discharge with fidelity all the duties and relations of life? Is it an unreasonable expectation, that husbands may learn to cherish their wives and to love their children; that woman may rise to her just elevation and legitimate influence; and that the virtues of the parents may shine

forth in their offspring? If the blessings of Christianity should be extended to all, according to the measure in which they are enjoyed by many, how would this world of sorrow and of pain be converted into a picture of heaven! Should we refer to past experience, there is no fact more certain, than that the religious and moral state of every country may be fairly estimated by the facility of procuring Bibles, and the disposition to read them.

Appeal to a Christian, in any age and in any country, and ask him what is the greatest benefit which one child of mortality can confer upon another. Will he not refer you to the Bible? He will tell you, that the streams of charity may indeed flow in ten thousand channels, and that they will not fail to convey blessings wherever their course can be directed; but that the records of heaven are calculated, above all other means, to meet the wants and to diminish the sufferings of man; to point out to him his condition; to point out also to him his privileges; to improve his state, and to brighten his prospects; to impart consolation as he proceeds on his earthly pilgrimage; and to cheer his last hours, even in the agonies of dissolving nature, with a hope full of immortality. It would seem as if the very touch of the inspired volume had power to communicate new feelings, and to kindle new desires; to elevate the standard of principle, and to raise the tone of morals; to purify the springs of domestic happiness, to tame the fierceness of the passions, to civilize manners, to bind in harmony the various "members of the embodied state;" and to give to the family on earth some resemblance to the family above. Whenever Christianity has been permitted to walk forth in the native majesty of her form and the loveliness of her character, a blessed influence has travelled by her side. Her charms have fixed the regards of lisping infancy and of hoary age. The mouth which was once "full of cursing, deceit, and fraud," has learned to utter the language of sincerity and praise. The feet which were "swift to shed blood," have run with alacrity in the way of GOD's commandments. Mankind have been taught to love one another, and have delighted in the assembling of themselves together: the house of prayer has been crowded with worshippers, and the sentiment of every heart has echoed responsive to the sweet singer of Israel: "How amiable are thy tabernacles, O LORD of Hosts! my soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the LORD: my heart and flesh crieth out for the living GOD.—Blessed are they that dwell in thy house: they will be still praising thee." Let it be granted that the Scriptures are read with assiduity through the whole extent of our population, and results like these may be confidently anticipated. "My word shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I send it." What though the effects are not immediately perceptible; what though the groans of the creation are not at once hushed in repose, or converted into sounds of joy; the promise is indisputable, and the blessing is sure. The change in the moral world will resemble the change in the natural: the sun arises, and the dews descend; but the rigours of winter do not instantly abate, nor does the face of nature at once resume the gaiety of spring: yet the great principle of life and fertility is secretly at work; it is imperceptibly operating in ten thousand channels, and gradually covers the regions of sterility with luxuriant vegetation and abundant harvests.

If this be a just representation of the moral change which a knowledge of the Bible is calculated to produce; and if the system of Bible Associations tend, in an especial degree, to the general diffusion of that knowledge; few arguments can be so powerful as those which recommend their adoption. To the rich and to the middle ranks it may be urged; "You have a deep interest in the welfare of the poor. If the security of a state depend upon the loyalty and morals of its people, by what other means can you contribute so

essentially to the preservation of order, to the authority of the law, and the stability of the government? Among what description of men will you look for patience and industry, for sobriety and obedience? Who are the persons most decent in their demeanour, most frugal in their habits, and—what is no mean political consideration—most anxious to avoid the necessity of becoming chargeable to their parishes?—The answer is obvious. And is it not, then, a matter of policy, as well as of duty, to create an interest among the lower classes for the possession and perusal of those sacred records, from which benefits so great and various are acknowledged to flow?

And if "righteousness exalteth a nation," if national piety be recompensed by national mercies; in what way can you hope so effectually to secure to your native country the protection of Him by whom "kings reign and princes decree judgment," as by extending the knowledge of His name and the blessings of His religion? By such means may this empire be fixed indeed upon the Rock of ages—tranquil amidst general disturbance, and safe amidst surrounding ruin.

Your zeal has already been attended by great success. By your liberal exertions, Britain has already become the benefactress of distant lands; and, while the nations are crumbling around her, she stands alone and pre-eminent. You have opened many channels, through which the streams of mercy and of life may flow: but extensive deserts are still to be found, and England itself yet contains many a parched and thirsty waste. If the lower orders be ignorant, it must be yours to instruct them: if they be careless and indifferent in this good cause, it must be yours to rouse them into action. Shew them their privileges and their duty; lay before them the benefits which they must themselves experience from hearty co-operation in such a service; and appeal to their best feelings, by displaying the blessings which they will confer upon others. Let a concern for the circulation of the Scriptures be thus excited through the great body of our population, and the lapse of a few years will furnish every poor family in the British dominions with the treasure of a Bible. If the poor can be induced to subscribe, even the smallest weekly sum, for the possession of the Scriptures, and the distribution of them to others still poorer—if they can be led to inquire into the wants of their neighbours, and to arrange the best means of supplying them—an interest will gradually be created in their own minds, to which they have hitherto been strangers; and that, which at first was matter of indifference, will become the object of earnest attention. Such is the natural progress of the human mind. Those who give the Bible will soon find a desire to peruse it; and while engaged in recommending it to others, they will be impelled to examine it for themselves, to read it in their houses, to teach it to their children, and to make it the frequent subject of their thoughts and conversation.

Let not coldness or timidity suggest, that the attempt will be abortive: if despair of success should be the guide of our counsels, what great project could ever be accomplished? Had this feeling been suffered to damp the ardour of those who first raised the standard of Christianity among our ignorant forefathers, or to depress the spirit of our Reformers, what might have been at this day the condition of England! Was it in despair of success that the champions of humanity fought for twenty long years the battles of injured Africa? Was it thus that they rose again and again, after combat and defeat, still fresh for engagement? No! confident in their good cause, and in the approbation of Him who is the friend of the poor and needy, hoping as against hope, they pursued with determination their glorious way, till at length they broke her chains, and gave freedom to her sable sons. And why should you doubt of success, in attempting to interest the poor upon the most interesting of all subjects? Have they not senses, feelings, affections, passions like ourselves? Are they not influ-

enced by the ordinary motives of hope and fear? Shall the ebullitions of folly, and the harangues of democracy, awaken their enthusiasm for earthly liberty, even in cases when they can complain of no oppression, and can urge no wrong;—and shall they be utterly insensible, when called to contemplate that heavenly liberty which makes them "free indeed"—which releases them from the dominion of those sordid habits and degrading passions, whose tyranny they experience every day—which rescues them from the bondage of Satan, and converts them into the children of God? Are they, in so many instances, ready to confer a trifling benefit upon their poor neighbour, and will they deny him the greatest which a child of mortality can bestow? Shall the motives which direct and govern them in the ordinary transactions of life fail in that instance alone from which they derive tenfold force and incalculable importance? Shall the impression be less, as the reasons are more powerful?

Will it be insinuated, that the lower orders would rather associate and contribute for a bad purpose, than for a benevolent object? The very persuasion of their proneness to associate should be an argument for attempting, with all your might, to give a right direction to that tendency, and to correct and approve it. If, by thus employing them in a good cause, they can be preserved from base and injurious combinations, you will render both to them and to society a double service. In times like the present, these considerations come with peculiar force.

Will it be urged, that we have no encouragement to proceed in this work of charity? What! when millions are rousing themselves, in different quarters of the world, from the lethargy of ages, anxious to behold "the Desire of all nations," can we possibly need any additional encouragement or motive for circulating those inestimable records which testify of Him.

Will it be contended that no great effect can be produced by small contributions? The contribution of an individual to the government is small; but it is by the aggregate of such sums that the state is supported. A ray of light and a drop of rain are small: but it is by the sun and the shower that our harvests wave in the field, and by the accumulation of waters that the riches of all lands are transferred to this.

"Freely ye have received, freely give:" if you acknowledge for yourselves the blessed influence of divine revelation, invite others to partake of it. The light of heaven is streaming, in all its effulgence, above and around you: O, let not the beams be intercepted! Open for it a free passage into the dwellings of the poor!

To men of humbler condition it may be observed, in addition to the arguments already adduced:

Although, for reasons best known to infinite Wisdom, the Almighty has withheld from you rank and opulence, yet has he given to you the privilege of conferring benefits on others, and of conferring them in the highest degree. The facilities which you possess for discovering the wants of those immediately around you, may be considered as an intimation of Providence, that, according to your ability, you should seek to relieve them. Silver and gold you may have none to give; but you can give that which is better than rubies. You cannot, indeed, raise your poor neighbours above the pressure of the times, or remove those afflictions which are especially incident to his condition; but you can furnish him with a remedy for all: you can present him with those oracles of wisdom which will enlarge his views and brighten his prospects; which will teach him that this scene of trouble is but the pilgrimage of a day; that he is but the tenant of an earthly tabernacle, which shall presently be dissolved; and that the disembodied spirit shall then seek its everlasting home, shall ascend to that "building of GOD, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."

Since the beginning of time, no method has ever been devised, by which you might do good on so large a scale, and by such easy means. The effects arising from other acts of charity, must often be confined to the immediate object; but the influence of your liberality will probably be permanent, and descend, with increasing blessings, from age to age. It is an enterprize of exalted benevolence, which would become a sovereign better than his crown, and add a greater lustre to his throne than the widest enlargement of dominion. This is a work which may bring all classes into action, without prejudice to any: here the rich and the poor may meet together in common exertion, for common good. Poverty itself may be thus enriched, and the lowest rank ennobled. One generous feeling may animate all the orders of society, may impel them to the same labour of love, and crown them with the same reward.

What pleasure can be derived, even from wealth, like the pleasure of doing good?—and this is a gratification, which, without riches, you may enjoy in its highest measure. Look upon your poorer brethren, and then ask whether any delight can surpass the enjoyment of charity like this;—of charity, that extends blessings the most pure and exalted, to the humblest of mankind—that produces 'an elevation of mind and of feeling, which no poverty but Christian poverty can exhibit'—that gives light to the blind, heals the broken in heart, brings life and immortality to light among those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, and renders the poor of this world rich in faith and heirs of the promises. If the blessings of those who are ready to perish be worthy of acceptance, then may you be blessed; if there be joy in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, then may the angels of GOD rejoice even in your labours, and the Father of mercies himself look down with approbation upon us. Above all other considerations, let this be supreme;—if, by engaging in these acts of benevolence, you are induced to read your Bibles with more earnestness for yourselves, you may become Christians indeed; and however low your situation in this life, the treasures of that better world will be your rich and eternal re-payment.

And is it not a recommendation to men of all classes, that this system will soon carry the tidings of Salvation into the most distant lands? When the demands at home shall have been satisfied by the contributions of the poor, the subscriptions of the more opulent to the Parent Society and all the Auxiliaries may be wholly converted into foreign channels. Thus will the lower orders, by their exertions at home, greatly contribute to the increase of the supply abroad; and, in this view, may even be considered as elevating on high the standard of Christianity,—as becoming "heralds of salvation to the ends of the earth."

They will share in the services and in the triumphs of those, who, by the blessing of the Almighty, shall be made the instruments of "shewing his glory" to the millions of their fellow-creatures that sit in utter darkness, or that hitherto have only caught glimpses of the light of Revelation, like interrupted flashes, distantly shooting across a gloomy sky. They will march, if we may so speak, in the retinue of Him who shall come forth "conquering and to conquer." They will add wings, as it were, to that angel of mercy, who shall fly into all lands, bearing the everlasting gospel. Their hearts will be gladdened by the gratitude of those, whom, under GOD, they shall have assisted to save: and they will receive yet a far ampler reward in that place where "they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament, and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars, for ever and ever."

No. VIII.

APPEAL TO MECHANICS, LABOURERS, AND OTHERS, RESPECTING BIBLE ASSOCIATIONS.

(WRITTEN BY MR. JAMES MONTGOMERY, OF SHEFFIELD.)

"*The Workmen wrought, and the work was perfected by them, and they set the House of* GOD *in his state, and strengthened it.*"—2 Chron. xxiv. 13.

THE British and Foreign Bible Society is a treasury, open to receive not only the gifts of the rich, but the mites of the poor. The widow of old, who of her want threw all that she had into the offerings of GOD, was said by our SAVIOUR himself to have cast in more than all they that of their abundance had cast in much. Who then shall say, "I am too poor to contribute any thing of value to so amazing a work as the publication of the Scriptures in every language, among every people under heaven?"—GOD sees the heart of every man, and judges its thoughts: He watches the motions of every hand, andr ecords its deeds. If the heart be right towards Him, the deeds of the hand, however few and small, will be accepted and sanctified. It is, therefore, *right* that the poor should lend unto the LORD, by bestowing on those who are poorer than themselves, that Book which may enrich them for ever.

It *is* right:—is it not *more* than right?—Is it not *necessary* that every one, according to his ability, should minister in the service of GOD, the Author of all the good he ever had, or has, or hopes to have? Under the law, none approached the altar without a gift: the gifts were indeed proportioned to the circumstances of the parties; but *every one was required to bring a gift.* Oxen, and sheep, and goats were sacrificed by those who could afford them; but the most needy were not exempted from making some oblation. Have you not heard of a mother, who came to present her first-born Son in the temple of GOD? Too poor to furnish a lamb, she brought only a pair of doves for an atonement;—yet shall all generations call *her* blessed; and that Son, whom at his birth she had laid in a manger, was the LORD from heaven. O how did GOD honour poverty here! And how does he still honour poverty, by receiving and recompensing its meanest offerings! "Whosoever shall give you a cup of cold water to drink, in my name, verily he shall not lose his reward." So said our Saviour concerning the gift *of* the poor *to* the poor,—a cup of cold water to one of his disciples. Does our Saviour bless a cup of cold water, given for his sake; and hast thou not a cup to spare for thy brother who is perishing for thirst? When there was a sore famine in Israel, GOD sent his prophet to ask bread of a poor widow, who had but a handful of meal in a barrel, and a little oil in a cruse, and who was gathering two sticks, as she said, to dress it for herself and her son before they died of want. You know the story: she made a cake for the prophet *first*;—and did she repent of her generosity? No: none ever trusted in the LORD in vain.

But is it *practicable* for the poor to contribute effectually to the purposes of the Bible Society? Remember the saying of the LORD JESUS,—"It is more blessed to give than to receive." What, then: is the greater blessing reserved for the rich alone; and can the poor only enjoy the lesser? GOD forbid! The whole tenor of Scripture contradicts the supposition, that there is one higher blessing promised, in any passage of it, to the rich than to the poor. The poor therefore *may give* as well as *receive:* they may possess the greater as well as the *lesser blessing*. A labouring man who can support his family,

may well afford a penny a-week to a Bible Association, which will enable him, at the year's end, to be the benefactor of a man poorer than himself, by presenting him with a gift more precious than all the treasures of the earth. If it be thus blessed to *receive a Bible*, how much more *to give one!*

The poor are as deeply interested in the success of the Bible Society as any other class of people;—and in the promotion of this great work, they can essentially contribute to its success. How?—A penny a-week subscribed by every poor person in this kingdom, who really could afford it out of his earnings without hurting his family,—for how little food can a penny purchase!—would exceed, on a very moderate calculation, *half a million annually.* And who can *not* afford a penny a-week for such a noble end?—those only who are in the lowest state of famine, wretchedness, and disease. Among all others, *wherever* there is *health* and a *willing heart*, there is *an able hand.* On these we call, not to confer an obligation upon the Bible Society, but to partake of its benefits, by sharing its labour of love. We call upon *them to exercise a right, and to enjoy a privilege*, which belongs as well to them as to the rich. All that have, may give, whether of their poverty or their abundance;—and all may prove that it *is* more blessed to give than to receive.

When our SAVIOUR opened his mission on earth, he read to his audience, from the prophecy of Isaiah, "The Spirit of the LORD is upon me, because the LORD hath anointed me to preach the Gospel to the poor." And who was this preacher?—our LORD JESUS CHRIST, "who, though he was rich, yet for our sakes he became poor, that we through his poverty might be made rich." And whom did he afterwards send to preach this Gospel to every creature?—poor fishermen, and others in the humblest ranks of life. Thus, in its commencement, was the Gospel preached, not only *to* the poor, but *by* the poor; herein shewing its excellency above the philosophy of the heathen, which was confined to the learned, the rich, and the great; the common people being overlooked, and despised as a profane herd.

To you then, ye Poor, is this Gospel sent: and if ye receive it, ye will be eager to send it forth to others. When ye have found it the power of GOD unto salvation in your own souls, ye will earnestly desire the salvation of the souls of your neighbours.—And who are your neighbours? Not the rich only, but the poor throughout this land, and all throughout the world, who are yet strangers to GOD and his truth. Come then, Men and Brethren, join hearts and hands with us! We are building the Church of GOD, by the promulgation of his Word. In such a work, what the greatest among us can do, is little; and what the least does, is something;—all shall receive their reward—they that labour in the foundations, as well as they that bring forth the head-stone with shoutings, crying, "Grace, grace unto it!"

No. IX.

THE BIBLE.

(WRITTEN BY MR. DUDLEY.)

"*Search the Scriptures.*"—John V. 39.

READER, is it in your power to obey this command? Have you a Bible?—In a Christian country, this may appear a strange question; but, Reader, it has lately* been asked in more than *ten thousand* families in the metropolis

* This Address was written in the year 1812.

of this kingdom; and, stranger still, the answer, in more than *five thousand*, has been—"No!" The inquiry has been made by persons earnestly desirous of ascertaining the fact, in order that proper measures might be adopted for supplying so serious a want, wherever it is discovered. They have gone from house to house, and from room to room; and they have found one half of their neighbours destitute of that sacred Book, which would "make them wise unto salvation, through faith in CHRIST JESUS!"

If such be the case in London, what must be the condition of the people in the more neglected parts of the kingdom? It is now made certain, that multitudes, in every direction, are longing for the treasure which, hitherto, they have been unable to obtain.—And why is it that you are told these awful facts? It is, that you may assist in supplying yourself, your neighbours, your countrymen, and the world, with this guide through life, this teacher of the way to heaven.—Reader! look around you: consider the conduct of those of your friends and acquaintance who read the Bible, and endeavour to obey its holy precepts.—Are *they* bad fathers, husbands, or neighbours? Are *they* drunkards, liars, or pilferers? Are *they* violent and quarrelsome?—Are they not honest, industrious, and peaceable; domestic in their manners, sober in their conduct, and friendly in their dispositions? Reader! observe them closely, and answer these questions for yourself.

If you possess a Bible, and read it with serious attention, you know its value: if you do not possess it, you may have one for a trifle, which the generality, even of the poorest, may contrive to spare. Your neighbours, whom Divine Providence has blessed with affluence, are willing to bear the greater part of the expense; they are cheerfully coming forward, to enable you to possess this cheap, but invaluable treasure. But you must do something yourselves;—you are not asked for the full price of a Bible. Those who now address you, can feel for your temporal wants; they know that many of you cannot afford to pay what a Bible costs; and therefore they contribute what you cannot spare, in order that you may be supplied with, and that every family in Great Britain may possess, a Bible.

You are now, for the first time since the creation of the world, invited, as a body, to be partakers in the privileges of the rich: you are invited "to taste the luxury of doing good,"—to assist in a great and glorious design, that of hastening the happy period, when peace, mercy, and love, shall reign throughout the universe, and "the kingdoms of this world become the kingdoms of our LORD and of his CHRIST."

And how, you say, can I contribute to the support of this great and good work? By joining one of the Bible Associations which are establishing all around you. One penny a-week constitutes you a member of such a society, whose only object is to distribute the Bible. Reader! to be a member of such a society is an honour indeed. If you have not a Bible, you may speedily possess it: if you have one, you will speedily be the means of supplying a neighbour; and may, under the blessing of GOD, be an instrument of leading a family to heaven.

Before you enter on the labours of the day, and when those labours are concluded, and you retire to your homes, if you take up the Volume of Truth, and read a portion of it to your assembled family, delightful consequences may be expected to flow from the practice, as it regards both yourself and your children; and among those consequences, we anticipate a readiness, or rather an eager desire, to promote all around, what you and your children enjoy.

No. X.

ADDRESS TO SERVANTS.

(WRITTEN BY MR. DUDLEY.)

"*Whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the* LORD, *whether he be bond or free.*"—Eph. vi. 8.

SUCH was the encouraging language addressed by the great apostle St. Paul to that numerous and useful class of society denominated Servants; and the promise remains in full force unto this day. To you, then, who occupy this station, the present appeal is made; and your attention is earnestly solicited to a few observations, peculiarly interesting to your present and eternal welfare.

Had you an opportunity of comparing your situation with that of servants in other countries, you would be convinced that you have abundant cause for gratitude: you enjoy comforts and privileges to which they are strangers; and you derive those blessings from a source which can never fail of being effectual, if it be not your own fault. The religion of Great Britain is the religion of the Bible: its promises, its consolations, and its privileges are extended alike to all—to the rich and to the poor, to the master and to the servant: the religion of JESUS CHRIST knows no distinction of persons; and it is to the Bible you owe the many blessings which you enjoy. This sacred volume, coming forth from GOD, is designed to lead us to Him: it contains the purest and the best rules for every rank in life:—while it commands obedience on the part of servants, it says unto their employers, "Masters, give unto your servants that which is just and equal, knowing that ye also have a Master in heaven."—But above all, it is designed, through faith in Him who "took upon himself the form of a servant," to conduct you to everlasting happiness.

For the sole purpose of placing this blessed book in the hands of every individual upon earth, a society has been established, called the British and Foreign Bible Society. It must be evident to you, that, in the execution of this grand design, the assistance of every friend to religion and virtue will be required: already numerous societies have been formed for the purpose of promoting this noble work; Auxiliary Societies and Bible Associations are establishing throughout the kingdom; and it is to these latter institutions that your attention is particularly requested.

The design of a Bible Association is plain and simple: it is, first, to supply every inhabitant, who may be desirous of possessing this treasure, with a Bible or Testament, at the cost, or a reduced price, or gratuitously, according to the nature of the case; and, secondly, to assist in extending the same blessing to every nation upon earth. Every subscriber of even One Penny a-week becomes a member of the Bible Association, and consequently of the great Bible Society: and who is there amongst you that cannot afford this trifle? Only consider the great, the glorious object for which it is required—To supply you with the scriptures of truth, and to assist in their publication, in every language, and among every people under heaven! And by whom are those societies conducted?—by persons of every religious persuasion: for this is a design which knows no sect nor party. Surely, if ever a cause was worthy of unqualified support—this is that cause!

And to whom is this appeal made?—to you, who, while many, even of your employers, find it difficult to answer the numerous calls on their means, are exempt from those claims—your daily meals are provided for you; you have neither rent nor taxes to discharge; the only debt you have

to pay is the debt of gratitude. And how can you prove your sense of the many benefits conferred upon you by Almighty GOD, better than by a life devoted to His service, and by contributing to the universal circulation of His law? Ask yourselves whether those duties are fulfilled: ask yourselves how your superfluous money is disposed of: if it be in the purchase of extravagant and ornamental dress, in dissipation, vanity, and folly, look at the reward!—Behold our public streets, crowded with wretched and unhappy outcasts, many of whom lately occupied your stations; but who now, cut off from friends, connexions, and virtuous society, frequently sink to an early grave, unnoticed, unpitied, and unlamented! Had those miserable victims of sin been governed by the divine precepts of the Gospel, and felt an interest in its universal diffusion, how different would have been their lives, how far different their end! They would have lived respected and beloved; the bed of death would have been a scene of peace; and their last moments cheered by the smile of a reconciled GOD!

Come then, join heart and hand in this blessed work. This is a privilege which you may enjoy in common with the rich; and, while you experience the truth of that saying of the REDEEMER, "it is more blessed to give than to receive," be assured that you will never be the poorer for having thus contributed to the promotion of His glory, and the eternal salvation of your fellow-creatures.

No. XI.

ADDRESS TO MARINERS.

(WRITTEN BY MR. DUDLEY.)

"*They that go down to the sea in ships, that do business in great waters: these see the works of the Lord, and his wonders in the deep.*"

Psalm cvii. 23, 24.

HAVE you a Bible on board? If you *have*, and read it with attention, you may know its value: if you have *not*, you little know what a treasure you are without. The Bible is the best gift which man can bestow on man: it came forth from GOD, and it is designed to lead us to Him—to point out the *only* mode by which we may be saved from sin and misery, and conducted to heaven and happiness.

If there be any body of men to whom this blessed book should appear to be of greater value than to others, it is to Sailors. When in harbour, and even while prosecuting a voyage, they have ample time for reading those lessons of sacred wisdom, and those deeply interesting and instructive narratives, with which the holy scriptures abound; while they have constant opportunities, in the different countries they visit, of being convinced that they are indeed the Scriptures of Truth; for "they that go down to the sea in ships, that do business in great waters; these see the works of the LORD, and his wonders in the deep." But, when you consider the perils which surround you, the frequent dangers to which you are exposed; and reflect, that another and an *eternal* world commences when this passes away, you must feel the boundless importance of possessing that which points to Him who can deprive those dangers of all their terrors, and can render that future world the haven of eternal security and happiness!

You call yourselves Christians; but do you possess that knowledge of the Scriptures, and that faith in them, which would make you Christians indeed—which would shine forth in your actions, and render you examples and patterns on distant shores? To acquire this knowledge and this faith,

"search the Scriptures,"* and be governed by their holy precepts: the effect is certain; for they "are able to make you wise unto salvation, through faith in CHRIST JESUS."† With such a compass on board, the tempest may blow, and the angry billows may beat; but they cannot shake your confidence in that Pilot who said unto the raging waves, "Peace, be still! and there was a great calm."‡

When you possess a Bible, and, reading it with serious attention, find that it leads to that hope which is "an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast," § a sacred joy will fill your hearts; you will feel desirous of imparting to others the happiness which you enjoy; and, while you are engaged in conveying to foreign nations the necessaries and the comforts of life, you will meet with many an unenlightened Heathen, and many an ignorant professing Christian, to whom you may be the messenger of glad tidings, and the happy instrument of eternal salvation.

You live in an age of the world which may well be called an age of wonders.—Among those wonders, the Bible Society is a noble First-Rate: she has hoisted the colours of the Prince of Peace: she has visited with favouring gales the most distant shores, and found a friendly harbour on every coast;—she has conveyed Three Millions of Copies of the holy scriptures to the various nations of the earth: and she still pursues her course, and will pursue it, until every port is blessed by her entrance. The crew of this noble ship is composed of all nations and of all classes—the Emperor of Russia, and the Princes of the House of Brunswick—the Kings of Prussia, Sweden, Denmark, Saxony, and Würtemberg—the admirals of our fleets, and the generals of our armies—the prelates of the church, and the members of the senate—tradesmen, mechanics, and servants—all meet on her deck, and cordially lend a hand in spreading her canvas to the winds of heaven.

While the rich and the poor, the high and the low, are thus coming forward to assist in the glorious design of distributing the Bible to all the nations of the earth, will *you* be the last in supplying yourselves with this teacher of the way to heaven, and in sharing the happy privilege of conveying it to foreign lands? There was a time when a Bible cost a sum which few of you could afford to pay: but, thanks be to GOD! it may *now* be purchased for that which any of you can spare: and, in order that *every one* may possess this inestimable treasure, you may be supplied with any number of copies of the holy scriptures, in different languages, at the cheapest rates. Annexed are a list of the Society's cost prices; and a code of rules, by the adoption of which you may assist in enabling every sailor, and every landsman, to read, *in his own tongue*, "the wonderful works of GOD!"‖

*** To this paper, if printed for general circulation, a copy of the Society's Catalogue (No. II. of this Appendix), and the rules recommended for Marine Bible Associations, should be appended. And, if the following Address be prefixed, or printed on an envelope, and circulated among those for whom it is intended, it may contribute very materially to promote the design.

ADDRESS TO OWNERS AND COMMANDERS.

(WRITTEN BY MR. PHILLIPS.)

THE Owners and Commanders of vessels must be aware of the great advantages derived from a sober and orderly crew; for they know, by

* See John, chap. 5.
† See the Second Epistle to Timothy, chap. 3.
‡ See Mark, chap. 4.
§ See the Epistle to the Hebrews, chap. 6.
‖ See the Acts, chap. 2.

observation and lamentable experience, that numerous ships have been wrecked, many valuable lives lost, and a ruinous waste of property occasioned, in consequence of the inattention, drunkenness, or disobedience of sailors. It cannot, therefore, be doubted, that any measure which has a tendency to promote sobriety and good order, and to improve the morals of seamen, will meet with the warm approbation of the proprietors and masters of ships, and obtain their immediate and hearty support. And such, it is confidently expected, will be the effects produced by the formation of Marine Bible Associations; by means of which the sailors may procure the holy scriptures on the easiest terms, not only for themselves and families, but even for disposal in foreign countries. Deriving inestimable advantage from this invaluable book, they may become the instruments of conveying it to millions of their fellow-creatures; and thus greatly promote the glorious Christian object of the British and Foreign Bible Society, to extend the knowledge of the Gospel of peace and salvation to all the nations of the earth.

For eleven years, the inhabitants of the British Isles have manifested their zeal and liberality by assisting in this great cause. It is surely, then, full time that an opportunity be afforded for the well-known generosity of British sailors to manifest itself, in aid of this noble undertaking. And, if the pure and simple object be explained to them, it would be unjust to suppose, either that their characteristic zeal, liberality, and activity, will be unemployed in forwarding this benevolent design, or that they will not equal, in every respect, the hitherto unexampled exertions of their brethren on shore. The plan has been already adopted, not only on board King's ships, but merchant vessels; and the effects on the morals and behaviour of the men have been such as to encourage every true friend to his country, and to mankind, to assist in the general establishment of similar Associations.

To accomplish this object, it is proposed that the Captain or Master of any ship should, by his example and recommendation, encourage his crew to subscribe, either monthly or weekly, at the rate of one penny a-week, or upwards, from each person; and the Captain or Master may be authorised by the subscribers to stop it out of their wages, if more agreeable to them;—the whole amount received to be expended, from time to time, in the purchase, at prime cost, of such descriptions of Bibles and Testaments, published by the British and Foreign Bible Society, as the subscribers shall require and direct: and, as Bible Societies are formed at all the principal ports in Great Britain and Ireland, application may be easily made to any one of their Secretaries for the requisite supply of the holy scriptures, at prime cost; specifying, that the application comes from a Marine Bible Association; and stating the name of the ship and her commander. Any number of Bibles and Testaments may thus be obtained, not only for the supply of the crew, but in different languages, for sale in foreign lands.

To facilitate the establishment of these Associations, a few hints for their regulation are subjoined, together with an Address to Mariners, the prices and Specimens of different editions of the Scriptures, and the proper Forms for keeping the accounts of the Association.

No. XII.

ADDRESS ON BIBLE ASSOCIATIONS.

WRITTEN BY THE REV. W. DEALTRY.)

TO a good man, there is nothing more delightful than to do good; and those who possess the opportunity, and neglect to improve it, omit a positive

duty. As we have opportunity, let us do good unto all men. It is thus that we best imitate the GOD and Father of us all. The goodness of GOD we perceive in all his ways: he considers all the sons of men as the children of his care: we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. It has pleased him, for wise ends, to place us in different situations; but he has withheld from none of us the means of adding to the comfort of others. If there be an honest and pure heart, it will excite us to generous actions. How many poor persons have cast in their mite at a charity sermon, for the instruction of youth or for the benefit of age? And did they become poorer for the gift; or could they ever repent of it?

It is a great privilege to be able to feed the hungry: but how much greater is the privilege, if we can direct those who are hungering after righteousness to Him who hath declared himself to be the Bread of Life! Millions of human beings are ignorant of God, and have no knowledge of his revealed will. Would it not be a blessed thing to tell them, that they are the creatures of a Divine Hand, and must live in happiness or misery for ever? Would it not be a noble act to endeavour to raise them from a death of sin to a life of righteousness; to seek out those who are as sheep going astray, and to bring them to the Shepherd and Bishop of their souls?

Shall we ask, who is sufficient for these things? The answer is, That this privilege may belong to the poor. It was through the poverty of JESUS CHRIST that many of us have been made rich—rich in the possession of his Gospel, in the enjoyment of his favour, and in the hope of immortality: and, by such acts of charity as our poverty can bestow, many may obtain those treasures, which no moth can corrupt, and no thief can steal. Be merciful after your power. If you that have little, do your diligence gladly to give of that little (although the sum should be only a penny a-week), you may not only supply your poorer neighbours with a Bible, but may carry it even into distant countries; into countries devoted to idolatry and immersed in darkness; where innocent children are delivered, even by their parents, to crocodiles and beasts of prey; where women, upon the death of their husbands, are burned alive; and the wretched enthusiast throws himself under the wheels of the machine which carries his god, that he may be crushed to pieces in honour of the idol! Yet even upon these victims of superstition may the light of Truth, through your charity, arise and shine: the wilderness and the solitary place may be glad for *you:* you may cause the name of a SAVIOUR to be heard, where now it is utterly unknown. Thus shall new songs of Sion ascend from those, who at this day have no heart to sing, and no feelings of devotion to be kindled into joy. And it will not be forgotten by them, that to *you*, as the instruments of heavenly mercy, is their gratitude owing. It will not be forgotten by the Father of mercies, that you did good with a willing mind. It will not be forgotten by Him, who commended the contribution of the poor widow, that *you* also of your want have thrown into the offerings of God;—and he will bless the gift.

Remember the words of the LORD JESUS; how He said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." It is sweeter in the recollection; it is more excellent in its effects. Even a cup of cold water, when given for His sake to a poor disciple, shall not lose its reward. Those who, upon Christian principles, do good to others, enjoy in the present life a pleasure which the mere possession of wealth cannot confer. The benefits thus imparted shall be returned abundantly into their own bosoms, even in this world; and will be followed by an exceeding great reward, when the earth and its glories shall have vanished away.

No. XIII.

LIST OF LANGUAGES.

THE Translation, Printing, or Distribution of the Scriptures, has been aided by the British and Foreign Bible Society, in the Languages enumerated in the following Lists, which will be found to contain ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-TWO different Languages or Dialects.

This aid to the circulation of the Scriptures has been rendered, either by printing them at home, or by grants in furtherance of their publication in foreign parts.

These grants have been—

1. Of a general nature, for the specific purpose of translating, printing, or purchasing the Scriptures abroad.
2. To India: through the Corresponding Committee in Bengal; to the Baptist Missionaries at Serampore; or to its Auxiliary Societies at Calcutta and Colombo.
3. In aid of Bible Societies in different parts of Europe.
4. In aid of Bible Societies in America.

In some of the following languages and dialects, the Scriptures, or parts of them, had been printed before. These are distinguished as *Re-prints.*

In others, they had never been printed before the institution of the Society. These are denoted as *Not printed before.*

A third class consists of new translations into languages into which the Scriptures, or parts of them, have been formerly translated; and are noticed as *Re-translations:* often, indeed, being almost wholly new.

The last class is that of those which are translated or translating, but not yet printed; and are marked as *Translated or Translating:* and these are such as had not been printed before, in every instance except that of the Modern Greek Testament.

These distinctions are noted in the following Lists.

AT HOME.

Re-prints:

1. Arabic. 2. Danish. 3. Dutch. 4. English. 5. Ethiopic (or Ecclesiastical Language of Abyssinia). 6. French. 7. Gaelic. 8. German. 9. Greek (Ancient). 10. Greek (Modern). 11. Hebrew. 12. Irish. 13. Italian. 14. Malay. 15. Manks. 16. Portuguese. 17. Spanish. 18. Syriac. 19. Welsh.

Not printed before:

1. Bullom. 2. Esquimaux. 3. Susoo.

Re-translations:

1. Hindoostanee. 2. Mohawk.

Translated or Translating:

Arawack (Indian).

BY GRANTS OF A GENERAL NATURE.

Re-prints:

1. Greenlandish. 2. Greek (Ancient). 3. Hebrew. 4. Hungarian. 5. Icelandic. 6. Italian. 7. Latin. 8. Slavonian. 9. Wendish, or Vandalian.

Not printed before:

1. Calmuc. 2. Maltese. 3. Otaheitean. 4. Tartar-Turkish. 5. Tartar, in Hebrew Characters.

Re-translations:

1. Chinese. 2. German. 3. Greek (Modern). 4. Turkish.

Translated or Translating:

1. Albanian.
2. Ethiopic-Amharic (one of the vernacular dialects of Abyssinia).
3. Ethiopic-Tigrè (the other vernacular dialect of Abyssinia).
4. Greek (Modern).

BY GRANTS TO INDIA.

Re-prints:

1. Armenian. 2. Bengalee. 3. Malay. 4. Tamul.

Not printed before:

1. Afghan, or Pushtoo. 2. Assamese. 3. Bikaneer. 4. Bruj. 5. Burman. 6. Canarese. 7. Gujuratee. 8. Hindee. 9. Joypore. 10. Juynugur. 11. Kashmeer. 12. Khassee. 13. Konkuna. 14. Kutch. 15. Mahratta. 16. Malayalim. 17. Marnwar. 18. Mithilee. 19. Nepal. 20. Oodoypore. 21. Oojjuryinee. 22. Orissa. 23. Sanscrit. 24. Seik, or Punjabee. 25. Telinga, or Teloogoo. 26. Watch, Wucha, or Multanee.

Re-translations:

1. Arabic. 2. Chinese. 3. Cingalese. 4. Hindoostanee. 5. Persian.

Translated or Translating:

1. Bhojpooree. 2. Bhugelkhundee. 3. Birat. 4. Budrinathee. 5. Bugis. 6. Bulochee. 7. Bundelkhundee. 8. Huriyana. 9. Jagatai, or Original Turcoman. 10. Javanese. 11. Jumboo. 12. Kanynkoobja. 13. Koomaoon. 14. Konsulee. 15. Kucharee. 16. Macassar. 17. Maldivian. 18. Mughuda. 19. Munipoor. 20. Munipoor-Koonkee. 21. Palpa. 22. Rakheng. 23. Siamese. 24. Sindhee. 25. Southern Sindhoo, or Hydrabadee. 26. Tripoora-Koonkee.

BY GRANTS IN EUROPE.

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Not printed before.

1. Buriat-Mongolian. 2. Calmuc. 3. Karelian. 4. Morduinian. 5. Nogai-Tartar. 6. Olenetz-Karelian. 7. Orenburg-Tartar. 8. Russ (Modern). 9. Samogitian. 10. Tartar-Turkish. 11. Tscheremissian. 12. Tschuwashian. 13. Servian. 14. Zirianian.

Re-translation:

Persian.

Translated or Translating:

1. Mordwaschian. 2. Ostiakian. 3. Samojedian. 4. Siberian-Tartar. 5. Tschpozirian. 6. Tungusian. 7. Wogulian.

To other Bible Societies.

Re-prints:

1. Bohemian. 2. Danish. 3. Dutch. 4. Finnish. 5. French (to two Societies). 6. German (to eight Societies). 7. Italian. 8. Laponese. 9. Lithuanian. 10. Malay (in Arabic characters). 11. Polish (to two Societies.) 12. Romanese (Ladinsche). 13. Romanese (Churwelsche). 14. Swedish. 15. Wendish, or Vandalian (to two Societies).

Re-translations:

1. Creolese. 2. German.

Translated or Translating:

Faroese.

GRANTS TO AMERICA.

Re-prints:

1. English. 2. French. 3. Spanish.

Not printed before:

Delaware (Indian).

Re-translation:

Mohawk (Indian).

RECAPITULATION.

Re-prints	41
Re-translations	7
Number of Languages and Dialects, in which the Scriptures have never been printed before the Institution of the Society	84
Total of Languages and Dialects . .	132

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